

ICOMOS



Review of ICOMOS' working methods and procedures for the evaluation of cultural and mixed properties

Final report prepared by Jade Tabet

A publication of the International Council on
Monuments and Sites

2010



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Foreword from ICOMOS

ICOMOS is honoured to serve the World Heritage Committee as one of the three expert Advisory Bodies identified in the text of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention).

One of the important roles of ICOMOS is the evaluation of cultural and mixed properties nominated for inclusion in the World Heritage List. This is a role requiring the highest standards of expertise, judgement, ethics and procedural fairness. In performing this role, ICOMOS utilises the knowledge and dedication of its worldwide network of members.

Naturally, such an important procedure is always subject to a high degree of scrutiny, critique and comment.

While ICOMOS is always ready to listen to and respond to feedback about its work, in 2006 the Executive Committee decided to enhance this through an independent and external review. This review aimed to test the effectiveness of some changes to the transparency and consistency of the evaluations introduced from 2006 onwards; and it also sought to gain additional insights into the standards and working methods of ICOMOS.

In 2008 the terms of reference were finalised and the reviewer Mr Jade Tabet was appointed (see Annex 1). Mr Tabet is a former member of the World Heritage Committee, and a member of Board of Directors of *Patrimoine Sans Frontières*. He is a cultural heritage expert, and well qualified to evaluate the work of ICOMOS in this aspect of its work as an Advisory Body.

The ICOMOS World Heritage Working Group was charged with overseeing the review, led by its former chairs, ICOMOS Vice-Presidents Tamas Fejerdy and Kristal Buckley; and a productive two-way dialogue was maintained during the process. As always, the review was supported by the dedicated staff of the World Heritage Unit within the ICOMOS International Secretariat in Paris.

ICOMOS thoroughly welcomes this review and its deep insights into the work conducted for the World Heritage Committee between 2006 and 2009. It has given us a rich resource that will stimulate further reflection. We are pleased to learn that the directions taken since 2006 have resulted in improved outcomes. The review gives added impetus to the processes of improvement and quality assurance as we continue to respond to the evolving application of the World Heritage Convention.

ICOMOS is extremely pleased that such a rigorous and thorough review has been made, and expresses its sincerest gratitude to Mr Tabet for his work. It is certain to be of lasting benefit to the work of ICOMOS, and to the quality of the advice ICOMOS can provide to States Parties to the World Heritage Convention and to the World Heritage Committee. We commend the detail of the analysis to all who have an interest in the future of the Convention and in the conservation of the world's diverse cultural and natural heritage.

ICOMOS is also very grateful to everyone who took some time to talk to Mr Tabet (listed in Annex 4), and for the forthright and constructive insights that were offered.

This document contains Mr Tabet's final report, and a short overview of the initial response by the ICOMOS Executive Committee to each of his recommendations. We have made this combined document publicly available on the occasion of the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee, meeting in Brasilia. In doing so, we welcome continuing feedback and discussion.

Gustavo F. Araoz, President
July 2010

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nominated for inscription on the UNESCO world
heritage list**

Final report

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July 2009

Revised and augmented December 2009

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Introduction

This report has been compiled at the request of the ICOMOS Executive Committee which commissioned from the auditor a mission consisting of reviewing ICOMOS working methods and procedures for evaluating cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The review has focused on the new procedures adopted by ICOMOS since the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Durban in 2005.

The results expected by ICOMOS are intended to make the property evaluation process as rational and transparent as possible, to reach the highest possible level of professionalism, to ensure that the evaluation process is perceived by the State parties as a form of aid and support, while safeguarding the impartiality and objectivity of ICOMOS and strengthening coordination with the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the other World Heritage advisory bodies.

The audit mission was carried out in two phases, from November 2008 to June 2009. It consisted of analysing a certain number of documents concerning the role of ICOMOS in evaluating properties nominated for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and conducting interviews and discussions with several personalities who have chaired the World Heritage Committee over recent years, with representatives of State Parties at the World Heritage Convention, with officers and staff members of ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICCROM, and with certain experts who are members of ICOMOS .

This report sets out the main findings and diagnoses based on an analysis of the documents and the discussions with the interviewees. In general, the work of ICOMOS is appreciated by the various actors involved in the World Heritage Convention. The reforms introduced over recent years and the improvements made both in the property evaluation process and in the presentation of the World Heritage Committee reports have generally been judged to be positive, reinforcing the credibility and audibility of ICOMOS. The fact remains that some issues, which emerged during the examination and raised by some of the personalities interviewed, deserve to be taken into consideration in order to improve the quality of the services provided by ICOMOS, strengthen its professional image, reinforce the credibility of its evaluations and make the evaluation process as transparent as possible. The recommendations presented in this report, classified by order of priority, are intended to help achieve these objectives.

Because of the considerable increase in the number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List over recent years and the growing complexity of the categories of nominated properties, the evaluation process is becoming increasingly difficult and requires ever higher standards of professionalism and rigorousness from the advisory bodies. Furthermore, since it has been transformed into a universally recognised label, World Heritage tends increasingly to take on political overtones. In this complex situation, it is the duty of ICOMOS to strive to achieve the highest possible levels of professionalism, impartiality, rigorousness and objectivity in its evaluation of nominated properties; while the final decision concerning the properties remains of course in the hands of the World Heritage Committee.

The auditor wishes to thank all ICOMOS officers and staff who provided him with the information and aid needed to successfully complete his mission. He is also grateful to all those who were kind enough to receive him, and to answer his sometimes forthright questions, and who generously shared with him their views, questions and suggestions concerning the World Heritage adventure, which we continue to find exciting and fascinating.

Jade Tabet
Paris, July 2009

1 Audit mission objectives

The ICOMOS Executive Committee commissioned the auditor to review ICOMOS' working methods and procedures for the evaluation of the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The objectives of the audit mission as defined by ICOMOS consist of:

- i. Reviewing the working methods and procedures applied by ICOMOS as the advisory body of the World Heritage Committee in evaluating the dossiers of the cultural or mixed properties (including cultural landscapes) nominated for the World Heritage List. The examination will concern the new procedures adopted by ICOMOS since the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Durban in 2005.
- ii. Proposing recommendations with a view to improving the working methods and procedures applied by ICOMOS.

The objectives relate particularly to the evaluation of the working methods and procedures applied by ICOMOS from both a strategic and operational perspective. The results of the mission are intended to:

- i. Make the overall evaluation process as rational and transparent as possible.
- ii. Make the technical evaluation process as professional as possible in terms of assessment and interpretation of the concepts of Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity, and from the viewpoint of systems for the protection, conservation and management of the nominated properties.
- iii. Make the evaluation reports produced by ICOMOS as coherent as possible, while taking into account the specifics of the various properties nominated for inscription.
- iv. Ensure that the property evaluation process is perceived by the State Parties as a form of aid and support, while safeguarding the impartiality and objectivity of ICOMOS and the confidentiality of the reports produced by the experts and consultants.
- v. Strengthen coordination with the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the other World Heritage advisory bodies.

Annex 1 sets out the methodological proposal made by the auditor for the performance of the audit mission (October 2008) and ICOMOS' remarks in response to the proposal (December 2008, January 2009).

2 The methodology adopted for the audit mission

The audit mission was carried out in two phases.

The first phase took place from November 2008 to the end of January 2009, and consisted of:

- Gathering a certain number of documents from the ICOMOS Secretariat (see the list of documents consulted in Annex 3).
- Analysing all these documents in order to focus on the relevant information and data (see the check lists of information collected in Annex 2).
- In parallel, a working meeting and e-mail exchanges with Dr. Christina Cameron, who in 2005 carried out an audit mission on the working methods and procedures of the IUCN for the evaluation of the natural and mixed properties nominated for the UNESCO World Heritage List, enabled comparisons between certain items of information and the clarification of some methodological points.
- The meeting of the expert group on Historic Urban Landscapes held at UNESCO on 13 and 14 November 2008, and the meeting of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel held at the ICOMOS International Secretariat on 28 and 29 November enabled the auditor to carry out instructive interviews with certain members of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel and World Heritage Working Group, and with some experts.
- On this point, the auditor regrets that his wish to attend as an observer the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel meeting held on 28 and 29 November 2008 did not receive a positive response. Had this been possible, this would have enabled him to obtain a clearer view of the working methods of the Panel, and of the respective roles of the advisors, the World Heritage Working Group, the World Heritage Unit, and the invited experts.

On completion of the first phase, a progress report was transmitted to ICOMOS. The report included the collection and analysis of data, and the initial findings and diagnoses. Each section analysed in this progress report was followed by provisional recommendations, which were verified, refined and completed in Phase 2.

After gathering the remarks and observations of ICOMOS about the progress report, the auditor undertook the second phase of the audit, which took place from April to the end of June 2009. During this second phase, the findings and provisional recommendations contained in the progress report have been refined, revised and completed by the examination of additional documents and by a series of interviews and discussions with several personalities who have chaired the World Heritage Committee over recent years, with representatives of the State Parties at the World Heritage Convention, with officers of the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICCROM, and with certain experts and members of ICOMOS who had not been interviewed during Phase 1. The 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee in Seville in June 2009 enabled the auditor to carry out instructive discussions with a certain number of representatives of State Parties and advisory bodies. A list of interviewees is provided in Annex 4 of this report.

On completion of the second phase, an initial version of the final report was transmitted to ICOMOS in July 2009, and was completed by the auditor in October and November 2009.

3 The cultural and mixed property evaluation process

The Operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention entrust ICOMOS with the responsibility for evaluating the properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List and for presenting the evaluation reports and the recommendations to the World Heritage Committee (Operational guidelines, Articles 30^e and 35). This responsibility relates to cultural properties and the cultural part of mixed properties.

Since 2005, ICOMOS has been undertaking a process of revising and rationalising its working methods and procedures for the evaluation of nominated properties and presentation to the World Heritage Committee. The revision process has been concerned mainly with:

At general strategy level:

- Adoption by the ICOMOS Executive Committee of the "Principles of application of ICOMOS' mandate for World Heritage" (January 2006, revised in November 2007). This document has enabled the reinforcement of the rules intended to ensure the objectivity and professionalism of ICOMOS in evaluating properties and avoiding situations which could generate conflicts of interest or which could be perceived as generating conflicts of interest.
- Creation by the ICOMOS Executive Committee of the "World Heritage Working Group" made up of members of the Executive Committee, of the World Heritage Unit and ICOMOS World Heritage advisors. (2006).
- Adoption of the document "Memorandum for members of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel" (created in 2002 for the Executive Committee, updated regularly and when the Panel was created in November 2006).
- Revision of the "Operational Guidelines for World Heritage technical evaluation missions" (November 2007)
- Adoption of the principle of quasi-systematic sending out of information requests to the State Parties after the initial evaluation prepared by the World Heritage Panel. Accordingly, the dates of the annual meetings of the Panel have been brought forward from January to November in order to allow the State Parties more time to draw up their responses (November 2007).

At evaluation procedures level:

- Establishment of a specific format for the desk review (2006)
- Clarification of the distinction between the concepts of "Refer back" and "Defer" on the basis of paragraphs 159 and 160 of the Guidelines (2006).
- Revision of the evaluation formats (2007) and establishment of specific formats for serial inscriptions and extensions (2008)
- Establishment of a check box list for the World Heritage Panel in order to strengthen the coherence of the evaluations and recommendations (2007).
- Revision of the format of the bilingual (English and French) evaluation reports and oral presentations to the World Heritage Committee (2007).

The evaluation process now consists of the following:

i. Preparatory work:

New proposals are submitted by the State Parties to the World Heritage Centre before 1st February each year. The World Heritage Centre checks that the dossiers are complete and transmits those considered to be complete to the ICOMOS Secretariat before 15 March of the same year (Operational Guidelines, article 168). The evaluation procedure begins with a study of dossiers by the ICOMOS World Heritage Unit and by the ICOMOS World Heritage advisors. Following consultation with the ICOMOS Scientific Committees and National Committees, the ICOMOS World Heritage Working Group draws up a list of experts for each of the nominated properties. The preparatory work consists on the one hand of a desk review and the consultation of specialists in order to evaluate the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties, and on the other hand of the sending out of technical missions with the objective of studying on the site the conditions of the properties with regard to authenticity, integrity, conservation, management and protection. In order to avoid situations which could generate conflicts of interest or could be perceived as generating conflicts of interest, ICOMOS has adopted the "Application principles of ICOMOS' mandate for World Heritage" (adopted in January 2006, revised in November 2007). This document, signed by all the persons involved in the evaluation process, represents a very positive step forward to strengthen the professional image of ICOMOS and reinforce the credibility of its evaluations.

ii. Evaluations and recommendations:

Using desk reviews, consultations and experts' reports, the ICOMOS advisors produce draft recommendations which are submitted to the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel. The Panel, which meets each year at the end of November or start of December, studies the drafts, revises them and draws up the recommendations of ICOMOS. Requests for additional information are sent to the State Parties to clarify and obtain more detail about certain points in the nomination dossier. The answers received from the State Parties before 28 February are then studied by the World Heritage Working Group and both the final evaluation dossiers and the ICOMOS recommendations are revised, translated and sent to the World Heritage Centre for issue. The ICOMOS advisors then present them to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee which adopts a decision for each of the properties: Inscribe, Refer back, Defer or Not Inscribe (Operational Guidelines, Chapter 3G).

Thanks to these reforms, introduced over the last four years, significant improvements have been made to the nominated property evaluation process and to the presentation of reports to the World Heritage Committee in terms of greater rigorousness and cohesion. Nevertheless, some of the interviewees have blamed ICOMOS for its "opacity" and "lack of openness" with regard to the State Parties. Some have even said that they felt as though they were "facing a court" when ICOMOS recommendations were presented to the World Heritage Committee, whereas one of the objectives of the evaluation process is to help the State Parties to better define the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated properties and to improve their protection and their management.

The recommendations of this report are intended to clear up certain misunderstandings and to take on board the observations made during the

interviews, so as to make the evaluation process as transparent as possible, and to strengthen the audibility of ICOMOS positions, while safeguarding the impartiality and the scientific nature of the evaluations.

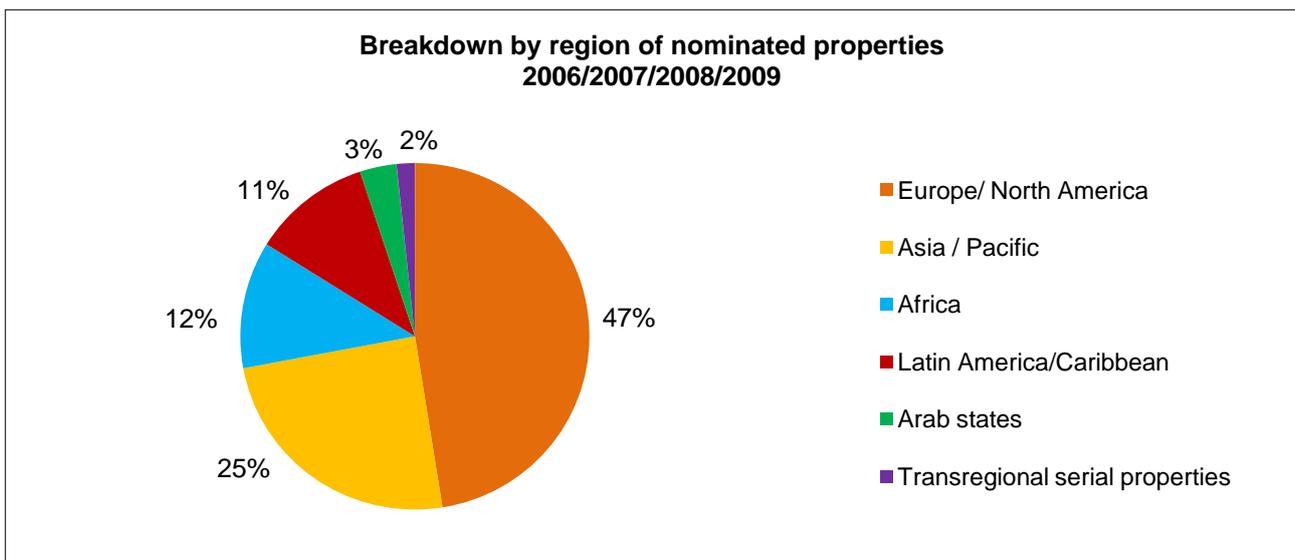
4 Analysis of data gathered and findings:

4.1 Nature and categories of properties examined:

Table 1 indicates that the number of properties nominated and examined by ICOMOS (excluding minor modifications) during the four years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 has reached an average of some 30 properties a year, which is in line with the range defined by the World Heritage Committee at Suzhou in 2004.

Three main remarks may be made about Table 1:

- i. Despite the many decisions and recommendations adopted by the World Heritage Committee, there is still a substantial imbalance in the breakdown of nominated properties between the various regions. Over the four years considered, the breakdown of the nominated properties was as follows:



This imbalance raises a problem in terms of the representativity of the World Heritage List. Certain measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee relating to international assistance are intended to help disadvantaged countries to identify properties to be nominated as a priority and to prepare nomination dossiers. But Table 2 suggests there is some doubt about the effectiveness of these measures: whereas the number of nominated properties having benefited from assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing nominations was 9 properties in 2006 (including 7 for Africa alone), this number fell to 4 in 2007, to 2 in 2008 and to a single property in 2009.

More serious still, the international assistance does not seem to have had any effect on the quality of the nomination dossiers: of the 16 properties having benefited from this assistance over the four years considered, only 5 were recommended for inscription by the ICOMOS evaluation. In addition to these 5 properties, the World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe 3 additional properties which ICOMOS was proposing to refer back to the State Parties, making a total of 8 properties inscribed out of the 16 having benefited from assistance from the World Heritage Fund. This represents a percentage of 50%, while the percentage of properties inscribed out of the total number of properties nominated over the four years considered amounts to 61% (see Table 10).

Under the terms of the Convention, each State Party is responsible for preparing the nomination dossiers for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List, including the justification of the inscription (Guidelines, article 13.2.3). In view of the responsibilities entrusted in it by the World Heritage Convention in the evaluation of nominations, ICOMOS (and indeed the IUCN) takes the view that it must not participate in any way in the preparation of the nomination dossiers, in order to avoid any conflict of interest. It would however be desirable for ICOMOS to consider intervening in a more proactive way to help State Parties revise and complete the Tentative Lists and better master the methods and procedures necessary for preparing nomination dossiers.

Following decisions by the World Heritage Committee (Decisions 30COM9 and 31COM9), ICOMOS published in 2008 a compendium of standards for the inscription of cultural properties on the World Heritage List (OUV Compendium). This document, which primarily focuses on the criteria justifying Outstanding Universal Value and their interpretation by the World Heritage Committee, has been supplemented by a second compendium relating to the Heritage at Risk List, which was presented at the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee in Seville.

Furthermore, a handbook of resources concerning the preparation of nomination dossiers is currently being prepared by the advisory bodies in order to cover all categories of cultural and natural properties.

These documents, which should be translated into the official languages of UNESCO and widely disseminated, could be illustrated with tangible examples, in order to constitute a working document enabling State Parties to better prepare their nomination dossiers (cf. Decision 32COM9 of the World Heritage Committee).

In this respect, the following provisional recommendations are made:

Recommendation No. 1: HIGH PRIORITY

ICOMOS should develop as a matter of priority and widely disseminate thematic studies relating to categories of properties and regions whose representation on the World Heritage List is limited.

Recommendation No. 2: NORMAL PRIORITY

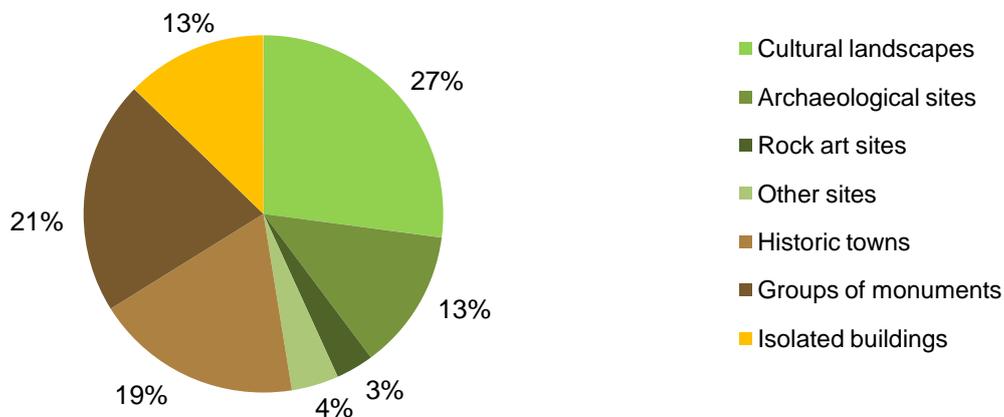
ICOMOS should translate into the six official UNESCO languages and widely disseminate thematic studies already completed.

Recommendation No. 3: TOP PRIORITY

ICOMOS should translate into the six official UNESCO languages and widely disseminate the documents already prepared or in preparation concerning the application by the World Heritage Committee of the various criteria used to justify Outstanding Universal Value (cf. Decision 32COM9 by the World Heritage Committee). These documents should be supplemented by the publication and dissemination of the resources manual relating to the preparation of nomination dossiers currently being prepared by the advisory bodies (cf. Decision 32COM9 by the World Heritage Committee) in order to constitute a working document enabling State Parties to better prepare their nomination dossiers.

- ii. An examination of the categories of properties nominated over the last four years (Table 1) shows that cultural landscapes represented 27% of the total number of nominations. This high proportion, considerably larger than for any other property categories, demonstrates the growing success of this concept, launched for the first time by the World Heritage Committee in 1992.

**Breakdown by category of nominated properties
2006/2007/2008/2009**



iii. Furthermore, ICOMOS has begun to develop a series of thematic studies concerning various subcategories of cultural landscapes, such as wine-growing cultural landscapes (2004) and Cultural Landscapes of the Pacific Islands (2007), but this effort still remains inadequate in view of the richness and variety of cultural landscapes in the various regions.

Moreover, as shown in Table 3, ICOMOS frequently consults the IUCN during the cultural landscape evaluation process. From 2008 onwards, the IUCN's evaluations are moreover systematically quoted in the ICOMOS reports presented to the World Heritage Committee. But a detailed examination of evaluations for each of the properties nominated in the "Cultural landscapes" category shows that the evaluations of ICOMOS and the IUCN remain totally autonomous, with the evaluation reports often appearing as the juxtaposition of two totally independent approaches, one based on cultural values, and the other on natural values. This dichotomy runs counter to the trend initiated with the revision of the Operational Guidelines at the 6th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee, which tends to call into question the traditional separation between cultural values and natural values by the establishment of ten criteria enabling the demonstration of Outstanding Universal Value in a single section. As cultural landscapes represent "the **combined** works of nature and of man" (Operational Guidelines, paragraph 47), the evaluation process should lead to a coherent overview transcending the separation between cultural values and natural values.

The report on the work of the IUCN on the evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List compiled by Dr. Christina Cameron in 2005 indicated that IUCN did not fully embrace the concept of cultural landscape at its inception and that this body had not yet developed a specific methodology for the evaluation of this category of properties. The IUCN has however started to put in place a strategy aimed at defining the theoretical framework for its intervention in the evaluation of cultural landscapes, and clarifying its positions in relation to working with ICOMOS during the evaluation process and when recommendations are presented to the World Heritage Committee.

Following a decision by the IUCN Panel, a working document setting out strategic guidelines (*Draft IUCN Strategy for Cultural Landscapes*) was compiled in April 2005 and transmitted to ICOMOS as a basis for discussion. This issue was again addressed during the *IUCN-WCPA World Heritage Workshop* held at Vilm (Germany) in November 2005. But clearly the IUCN is looking to ICOMOS primarily for the drafting of detailed proposals concerning a theoretical framework and intervention strategy in the evaluation of cultural landscapes.

As a result, and because of its position as the “leader” in the evaluation of this category of properties, ICOMOS should take the initiative of in-depth consultation with IUCN in order to put in place procedures and mechanisms enabling the production of a synthetic evaluation of properties nominated in the Cultural Landscapes category. Such an approach would furthermore be in line with decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee (Decisions 31COM9 and 32COM9) which call on “ICOMOS and IUCN, where required, to collaborate in the evaluation of properties so as to produce common evaluation reports for cultural landscapes or mixed sites, with referrals if necessary”.

In this respect, the following provisional recommendations are proposed (see also Recommendation no. 29):

Recommendation no. 4: HIGH PRIORITY

To allow for the increasingly important part played by Cultural Landscapes amongst the nominated properties, ICOMOS should develop even more thorough specific thematic research and studies concerning the various subcategories of Cultural Landscapes in the various regions.

Recommendation no. 5: TOP PRIORITY

Because of its position as “leader” in the evaluation of cultural landscapes, ICOMOS should take the initiative of establishing very close coordination with IUCN so as to frame a common strategy leading to a synthetic approach in the evaluation of properties nominated in this category of properties, and thus overcome the rigidity of the current approach, which all too often reflects a separation between cultural values and natural values (cf. decisions 31COM9 and 32COM9 of the World Heritage Committee).

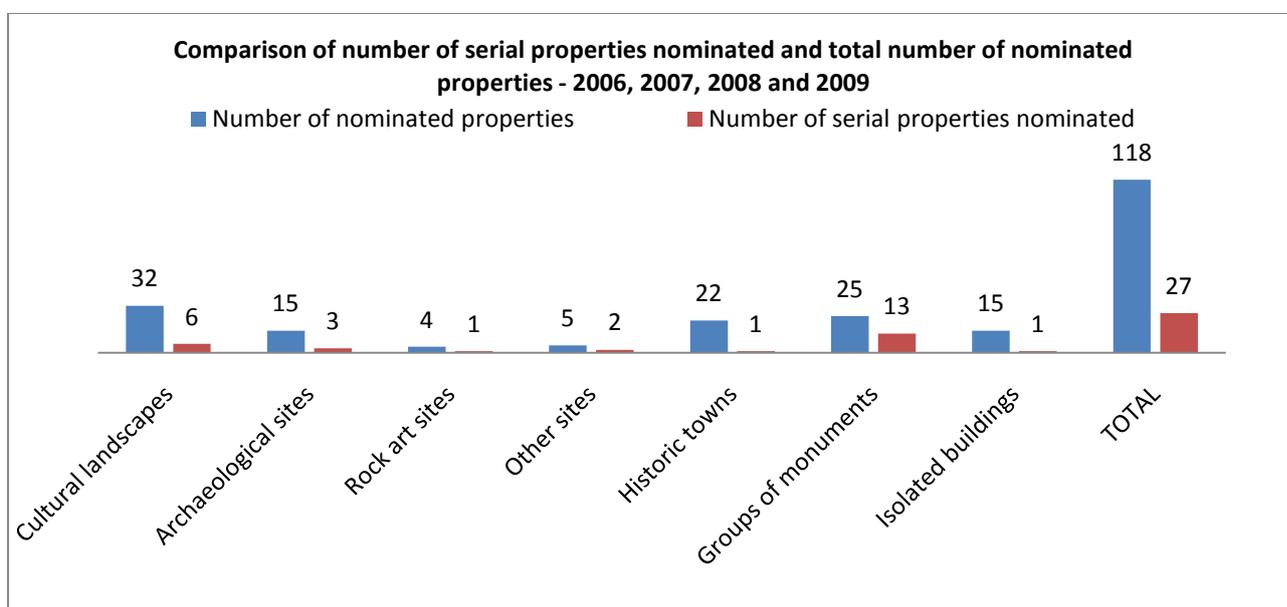
iv. An examination of the properties nominated over the last four years (Table 1) shows that nominations of mixed properties are relatively rare (only 3% of all nominations). However, in view of the complexity of the evaluation process for this type of property, and the joint involvement of the two advisory bodies, IUCN and ICOMOS should frame a strategy enabling better coordination of their evaluations, so as to achieve a concerted and coherent approach, without this leading necessarily to the elimination of any differences which may emerge between the two advisory bodies with regard to some of the evaluation criteria. In this respect, it would be advisable, when nominated mixed properties are examined (ICOMOS World Heritage Panel and IUCN Panel), for each of the two advisory bodies to invite a representative of the other body to participate in the discussions.

In this respect, the following recommendation is proposed (see also Recommendation no. 29):

Recommendation no. 6: HIGH PRIORITY

ICOMOS and UICN should frame a strategy enabling better coordination of their evaluations of nominated mixed properties, so as to achieve a concerted and coherent approach by the two advisory bodies.

v. An examination of the properties nominated over the last four years (Table 1) shows the growing proportion of serial property nominations (23% of all nominations).



The conditions required for serial property nominations are set out in paragraph 137 of the Operational Guidelines:

“Serial properties will include component parts related because they belong to:

- a. the same historico-cultural group;
- b. the same type of property, which is characteristic of the geographical zone;
- c. the same geological, geomorphological formation, the same biogeographic province, or the same ecosystem type;

and provided it is the series as a whole – and not necessarily the individual parts of it – which are of outstanding universal value.”

This rather vaguely worded definition is not adequate to guide State Parties in preparing coherent serial nominations. The evaluation of the Outstanding Universal Value of a series of properties containing several components which, considered in isolation, may not meet any of the criteria used to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value, is a particularly complex process which may be open to a large number of interpretations.

The increase in the number of serial nominations raises several problems:

- the risk of transforming this type of nomination (which in the spirit of the Operational Guidelines should be relatively limited) into a tool used to generate large numbers of nominations of properties which, when considered in isolation, could not demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value,
- the lack of relevant and well proven scientific tools enabling State Parties on the one hand to prepare their nomination dossiers (either for the justification of the Outstanding Universal Value of the series, or for the introduction of an efficient management mode), and the advisory bodies on the other hand to rigorously evaluate nominations.
- the very substantial additional workload caused by the large increase in this type of proposals for the advisory bodies, whether in terms of desk reviews or field missions, particularly for transnational properties.

These problems were raised at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee in Quebec, which adopted a resolution (32COM10B) requesting that the World Heritage Centre should, in collaboration with the advisory bodies:

- Organise a meeting of experts to reflect on current and future practices and strategies with regard to national and transnational serial nominations. In this respect, a preparatory workshop was held at Vilm in Germany in November 2008 for natural properties, and an expert meeting is scheduled for February 2010.
- Propose amendments to the Guidelines and more detailed directives for examination at the 33rd session of the Committee in 2009).

In this respect, the following recommendations are proposed:

Recommendation no. 7: TOP PRIORITY

ICOMOS should undertake, in collaboration with IUCN, a thorough study of the concept of serial nominations of properties, particularly developing the conditions and criteria used to evaluate the Outstanding Universal Value of the whole series, independently of its component parts, and appropriate management modes for this category of properties.

Recommendation no. 8: TOP PRIORITY

ICOMOS should enter on its agenda, as a matter of priority and in collaboration with IUCN, the drawing up of draft modifications to paragraphs 137, 138 and 139 of the Guidelines, as requested by the World Heritage Committee (decision 32COM10B).

Recommendation no. 9:HIGH PRIORITY

ICOMOS should propose to the World Heritage Committee that the lead times granted to the advisory bodies for the examination of serial nominations should be extended, allowing them an additional year so that they can carry out their evaluation satisfactorily.

4.2 Desk review and consultations:

The identification and selection of experts constitute an important stage in the evaluation process. The National Committees and the Scientific Committees of ICOMOS constitute an important potential network for the identification of experts. The completion of a new data base of ICOMOS members (the Gilles Nourissier data base) will shortly enable the constitution of a file enabling better coverage of the various regions of the world and the different heritage issues.

i. The International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS:

The International Scientific Committees have a role to play in the identification of experts. Recently, the ICOMOS Scientific Council launched a campaign for the identification of experts who could participate in evaluation missions in the field. The International Scientific Committees are also called on during the evaluation procedure on the basis of their field of expertise. An examination of Table 3 indicates that the International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS have been systematically consulted for each of the nominated properties. The quality of responses received however remains variable, as some of the Committees consulted provide only a superficial response to the World Heritage Unit request.

In this respect, it is essential that the selection of experts called on by the International Scientific Committees to participate in the desk review takes into account their thorough knowledge of the property to be evaluated, or at least of properties of a similar nature located in the same cultural area. This principle is apparently not always complied with at present, and this has a negative impact on the quality of the responses obtained.

Over recent years, ICOMOS has set itself the objective of developing the degree of participation of its International Scientific Committees in the evaluation process. Since 2008, one of the coordinators of the Scientific Council has been invited to participate in the meetings of the Executive Committee and the World Heritage Panel. The detailed definition of the terms and conditions under which the International Scientific Committees take part in the evaluation process does however raise a certain number of questions with regard firstly to the balance necessary between the desirable extent of enlargement of the field of consultations and the confidentiality of the evaluations, and secondly to ways of avoiding situations likely to generate conflicts of interest, as some members of International Scientific Committees are often actively involved in the preparation of nominations.

The specific expertise of the International Scientific Committees also lies in their ability to produce research and publications on various heritage subjects. However, the scientific works produced by the various Committees do not seem to be sufficiently widely disseminated.

In this respect, the following recommendation is proposed:

Recommendation no. 10: HIGH PRIORITY

ICOMOS should strive to more greatly develop the participation of its International Scientific Committees in the process of evaluating properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, while taking care to ensure a balance between the desirable degree of extension of the field of consultations and the confidentiality of evaluations, and to avoid situations likely to generate conflicts of interest. The research and publications produced by the International Scientific Committees should moreover be widely disseminated, and should regularly be added to the resources of the ICOMOS documentation centre.

ii. National Committees of ICOMOS:

Consulting the National Committees of ICOMOS seems to have become common practice at the outset of the evaluation of nominated properties, even though no reference is made to this in the evaluation reports. The responses of the committees however remain greatly inadequate: in 2006, 4 national committees sent written comments about the properties nominated for inscription, and this number rose to 7 in 2007, but in 2008 the Heritage Unit did not receive a single written response from the National Committees. Although the opinion of the National Committees has no impact on the decisions of the World Heritage Panel (cf. *Policy for the Implementation of the ICOMOS World Heritage Mandate*), comments by the committees can be useful in providing information about the values attributed to the properties by the populations concerned, the degree of involvement and commitment of populations for their protection and conservation, the efficacy and relevance of the management mechanisms proposed and their appropriateness in view of local and national realities.

The National Committees are also called on to identify potential experts in order to carry out missions in other countries in their region, and participate in the desk review. In this case also, the responses of the National Committees remain highly variable.

The key question raised by many interlocutors during the interviews conducted for the audit seems to be that of the training of the members of the National Committees with regard to the fundamental texts of the World Heritage Convention and the procedures and functioning of the World Heritage Committee. A special session was devoted to this question at the ICOMOS General Assembly in Quebec in 2008, and a presentation kit for National Committees is currently being prepared. Although a move in the right direction, these measures seem however to be insufficient. ICOMOS should therefore pay particular attention to this question, in order to define and implement measures to improve the level of expertise of the members of its National Committees with regard to the fundamental texts of the World Heritage Convention and the procedures and functioning of the World Heritage Committee.

In this respect, the following recommendation is proposed:

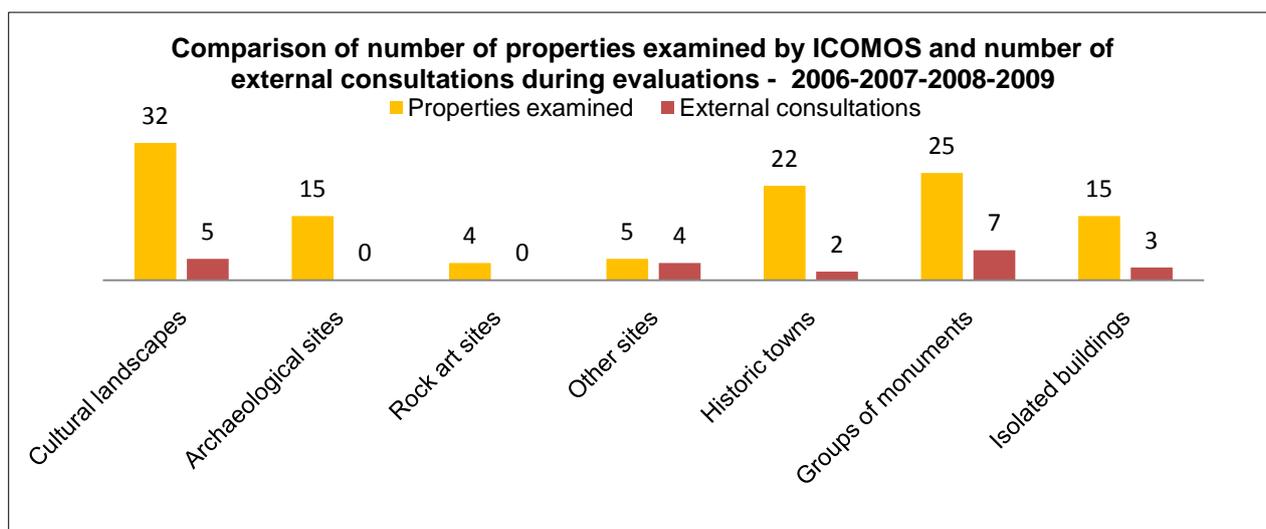
Recommendation no. 11: HIGH PRIORITY

ICOMOS should study and implement measures designed to involve its National Committees more closely in the process of evaluating nominated properties and in the identification of experts. Special attention should be paid to the implementation of measures to improve the level of expertise of National Committee members with regard to the fundamental texts of the World Heritage Convention and the procedures and functioning of the World Heritage Committee.

iii. External consultations:

External consultations of specialist organisations or scientific committees have not been very extensive, as shown in Table 3. Because of the growing complexity of subjects to be covered, it would seem however necessary to enlarge consultations so as to constitute, in parallel to the network of ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, an external network made up of research centres, universities and specialist organisations so as to enrich scientific expertise encompassing all cultural heritage fields.

Many interlocutors contacted during the audit thus criticised ICOMOS evaluations as being too often a reflection of a “culturalist” vision of the heritage, which does not grant sufficient importance to the social, economic and environmental dimensions or to the living heritage. Many other interlocutors noted a certain reluctance on the part of ICOMOS to extend the purview of its consultations to specialists not belonging to the organisation. ICOMOS should therefore consider this question in depth, so as to respond to the widely shared feeling that the organisation is “closed” to the idea of external consultations of specialists who are not ICOMOS members.



In this respect, the following recommendation is proposed:

Recommendation no. 12: HIGH PRIORITY

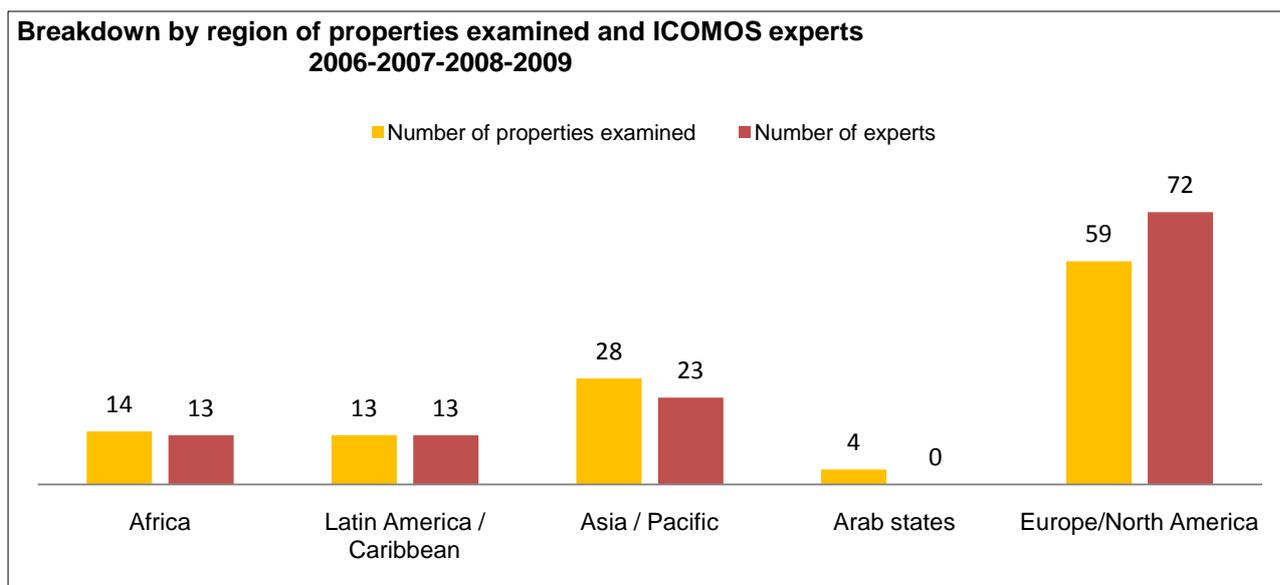
ICOMOS should consider the constitution of an external network of research centres, universities and specialist organisations in order to enrich scientific expertise covering all fields of cultural heritage and to widen the field of consultations for the evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List to include specialists who are not members of the organisation.

4.3 Technical evaluation missions:

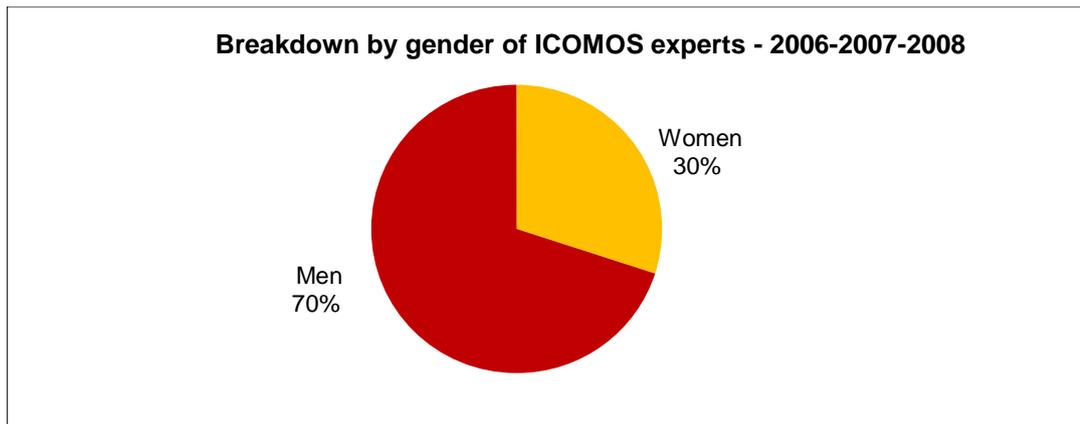
In parallel to the desk review, which is mainly focused on criteria justifying the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated properties and comparative studies presented by the State Parties, the technical missions involve field visits to evaluate authenticity, integrity, protection, conservation and management. Table 3 shows that technical missions were systematically carried out for each of the nominated properties, except in some isolated cases in which it was not possible to organise missions because of exceptional situations (properties inaccessible because of security conditions or armed conflict, etc.).

It is ICOMOS policy to choose for technical evaluation missions experts who originate from the region concerned, but not from the country concerned. While thus avoiding situations which could generate conflicts of interest or could be perceived as generating conflicts of interest, this arrangement has the advantage of involving in the evaluation process in the field people who are able to evaluate the conditions of the property in relation to local data. The regional breakdown of experts thus matches that of the properties examined.

Table 4 (Breakdown by region of properties examined and of ICOMOS experts) shows that this principle is generally well applied. Despite the fact that the number of experts from the Europe / North America region is slightly greater than the number of properties examined in this region, as some of these experts have carried out missions in other regions, the regional breakdown of experts roughly corresponds to that of the properties examined, except in a few cases, particularly for the Arab states: of the 4 properties examined in the Arab states during the three years considered, no technical mission has been carried out by an expert from the region. By taking care to ensure regional balance in the choice of experts, ICOMOS differs from IUCN, as the report by Dr. Christina Cameron in 2005 points out that at IUCN there is a large predominance of experts from the developed Anglo-Saxon countries.



On another front, as shown in Table 5, men/women parity in the breakdown of ICOMOS experts is a long way from being achieved, as 70% of the experts are men. This proportion however reflects considerably less imbalance than in the case of IUCN experts (34 men experts for only 1 woman expert).



ICOMOS experts carrying out a mission receive a copy of the inscription request dossier prepared by the State Party, the “Operational Guidelines for World Heritage technical evaluation missions” drawn up by ICOMOS, which sum up the tasks and obligations of the experts, and contain a format for their evaluation report. The format is regularly revised to allow for changes (modification of inscription request format, specific format for extensions and serial nominations, etc.). In addition, ICOMOS provides the experts with a document compiled by the advisors which defines certain key questions relating to the property to be examined.

Although it is not the role of the experts on missions to assess the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties visited, but to evaluate their condition with regard to authenticity, integrity, protection, conservation and management, the evaluation of these conditions largely depends on the value of the property to be evaluated, and the criteria on the basis of which its inscription is justified. For example, the evaluation of the integrity of a site, and of the coherence of its boundaries, is directly linked to the analysis of the criteria justifying the nomination. This interrelationship between the Outstanding Universal Value of a property and the conditions of authenticity, integrity, protection and management often makes the task of experts on missions complex. This question was mentioned by many interlocutors during the interviews for the audit, who pointed out that the experts on the mission did not always have a sufficiently full knowledge of the properties to be examined.

In this respect, it would be useful if the document drawn up specifically for each of the sites to be visited, and issued to the experts ahead of their mission, should include, in addition to the key questions to be explored for each property in particular, a summary – even if only provisional – of the most important points that have emerged during the desk review.

Furthermore, frequent criticisms from the State Parties and also from members of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel suggest that some experts on missions focus on their specialist field of competency and do not have a sufficient knowledge of the fundamental World Heritage texts or of the evaluation process as a whole. As already indicated above (see Recommendation no. 11), it would be useful for ICOMOS to set up a training programme for experts involved in technical missions. This question is crucially important, because the experts on the missions are the only ICOMOS interlocutors the State Parties will meet during the evaluation process, and that as a result, it is on the basis of the quality of the experts on missions that ICOMOS’ professionalism is often judged by the State Parties.

Other criticisms levelled by State Parties mention a feeling of “opacity” or a “lack of transparency” in the process by which ICOMOS evaluates nominated properties. Since 2006, at the request of the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS indicates in its evaluation reports the names of the experts who carried out the technical missions. This practice is conducive to greater transparency, without calling into question the confidentiality rules, as the experts necessarily make contact in the course of their mission with the authorities concerned, who have presented the nominated properties. Similarly, and to respond to the numerous criticisms about the “opacity” of the evaluation, it would perhaps be useful, in line with IUCN practice since 2006, for the ICOMOS experts to organise, at the end of their stay, a feed back session with the local and/or national authorities concerned, to take stock of the key questions which emerged during their mission, and raise some topics to which greater attention could be paid, while taking care to avoid taking up positions which could be interpreted as foreshadowing the evaluation results, and clearly specifying that this in no way constitutes an official and definitive ICOMOS position.

In this respect, the following recommendations are proposed:

Recommendation No. 13: Normal Priority

With regard to the choice of its experts, ICOMOS should maintain a balance between regions and improve the gender balance.

Recommendation No. 14: High Priority

ICOMOS should set up a programme for the training of the experts involved in technical missions and revise the format of the document issued to them before the execution of their mission, in order to better define the key questions it seems necessary to explore thoroughly for each property in particular. This document could include a summary (even if only provisional) of the most important points which emerged during the desk review.

Recommendation No. 15: Normal Priority

In the interest of greater transparency, ICOMOS should ask the experts to organise, at the end of their mission, a feedback session with the local and/or national authorities concerned, to take stock of the key questions which emerged during their mission, and to raise some topics which deserve closer attention, while avoiding taking up positions which could be seen as foreshadowing the evaluation results, and specifying clearly that this does not in any way constitute an official and definitive ICOMOS position.

4.4 ICOMOS World Heritage Advisors:

ICOMOS World Heritage advisors have a central role in the whole nominated property evaluation process, at each stage from participating in the selection of the experts, ensuring the coherence of their analysis and mission reports, drawing up draft evaluations presented to the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel, and presenting the drafts to the same Panel, up to the presentation of evaluation reports before the World Heritage Committee. Unlike the other intervening parties, experts and consultants, who usually only receive the reimbursement of their expenses from ICOMOS, ICOMOS advisors for World Heritage are paid for their services.

Until 2006, the number of ICOMOS advisors for the evaluation of cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List did not exceed two people. Since 2007, ICOMOS has decided to add a third advisor, and a fourth was added in 2008. This number however remains inadequate in relation to the nature and growing complexity of the dossiers to be evaluated.

The relatively limited number of ICOMOS advisors for property evaluation and the fact that they belong, in their overwhelming majority, to the same cultural area, may give rise to an image of a "closed club" type of operation whose renewal seems to be difficult, with all the risks raised by this image for the credibility of evaluations. The auditor has frequently heard this kind of remarks during the interviews carried out for the purposes of the audit. More specifically, the question of the involvement in the evaluation process of advisors originating from various cultural areas was frequently raised during the interviews. Although the evaluation of properties is based on their outstanding universal value, and although "cultural neutrality" depends on the scientific quality of the evaluations and not on the cultural origin of the evaluators, it is important that ICOMOS should try to implicate in the evaluation process advisors originating from various cultural areas, so as to allow for different regional sensibilities and strengthen the credibility of its evaluations. Obviously however, the main criteria for selection of advisors, as defined in ICOMOS documents, remain linked to the quality of their expertise, their experience and their thorough knowledge of World Heritage texts and procedures, and also to their written and oral fluency in at least one of the two working languages of the World Heritage Committee. Another important criterion is also the need to avoid situations which could generate conflicts of interest or could be perceived as generating conflicts of interest.

With regard to the nature and the growing complexity of the dossiers to be evaluated, it is therefore important for ICOMOS to constitute a larger pool of potential advisors, who would receive thorough training about the fundamental texts and the procedures and operation, of the World Heritage Committee. This pool would enable a significant increase in the number of advisors who would be selected in the various cultural areas and on the basis of their special expertise in relation to the various heritage categories. Particular attention should be paid to training young recruits to ensure the necessary renewal of the team of advisors, and the continuity of ICOMOS's approach in a medium to long term perspective.

ICOMOS has furthermore recently launched a call for applications "to extend and diversify its small international team of World Heritage advisors". The process of analysing the applications received is currently under way.

Moreover, in accordance with current practices, the advisors work individually on the dossiers allocated to them. It would be useful to set up a mechanism whereby the advisors can work as a team during the evaluation process and exchange their views, particularly on the most complex dossiers. The setting up of a mechanism of this type is particularly important in view of the prospective enlargement of the team of advisors, and would ensure better coherence in the drafts presented by the advisors to the World Heritage Panel.

In this respect, the following recommendations are proposed:

Recommendation no. 16: HIGH PRIORITY

ICOMOS should step up its efforts to constitute a large pool of experts with thorough training in the fundamental texts, and the procedures and operation of the World Heritage Committee. This pool would ensure a significant increase in the number of advisors involved in the property evaluation process, who would be selected amongst various cultural areas on the basis of their specific expertise in relation to the various heritage categories. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring the necessary renewal of the team of advisors, and the continuity of the ICOMOS approach in a medium and long term perspective.

Recommendation no. 17: HIGH PRIORITY

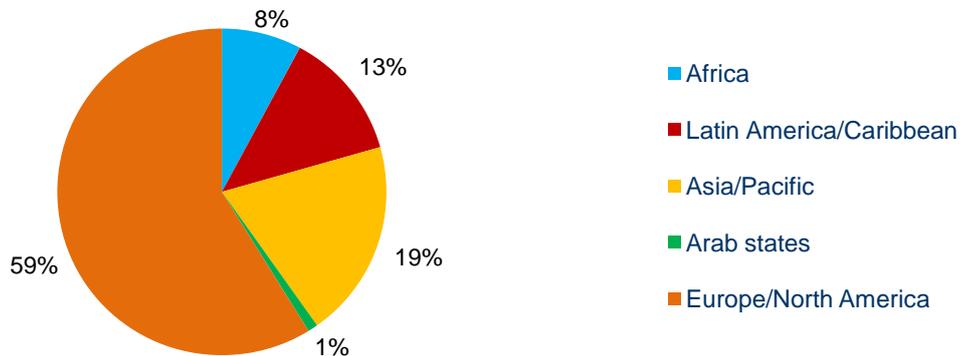
To ensure greater coherence in the evaluation process, ICOMOS should consider setting up a mechanism enabling advisors to work as a team, and exchange their views, particularly with regard to the most complex dossiers.

4.5 World Heritage Panel:

The World Heritage Panel, which meets once a year at the end of November or start of December, is the decision-making body concerning ICOMOS recommendations for the evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List. It is constituted by members who are elected or co-opted by the ICOMOS Executive Committee, together with experts chosen for their field of competency who are invited on an annual basis. The Panel members receive the draft evaluations prepared by the advisors before the meeting, and depending on their field of competency, are allocated two dossiers which they undertake to examine in more detail. The Panel discusses the draft recommendations prepared by the advisors and adopts them together with any modifications made.

Table 6 indicates the breakdown by region of the members of the World Heritage Panel (including invited experts but excluding advisors).

**Breakdown by region of ICOMOS World Heritage Panel members
2006-2007-2008**



For the last 4 sessions considered, there is a large imbalance in favour of the Europe/North America region (some 60% of Panel members); Africa and above all the Arab states are considerably under-represented. It seems obvious that the choice of World Heritage Panel members must primarily be based on expertise and competency, to ensure that ICOMOS evaluations are highly professional. Although the properties are evaluated in terms of their universal value, it still seems desirable to introduce a balance in the regional breakdown of Panel members, to make sure that cultural diversity is taken into account in the evaluations, and preserve the principle of “scientific neutrality” with regard to the various regional sensibilities.

Table 7 indicates the gender breakdown of Panel members. Of the 4 sessions considered, the Panel had 77% of men and 23% of women. This means that the composition of the Panel reflects a marked imbalance in favour of men originating from European and North American countries.

**Breakdown by gender of ICOMOS World Heritage Panel members
2006-2007-2008**

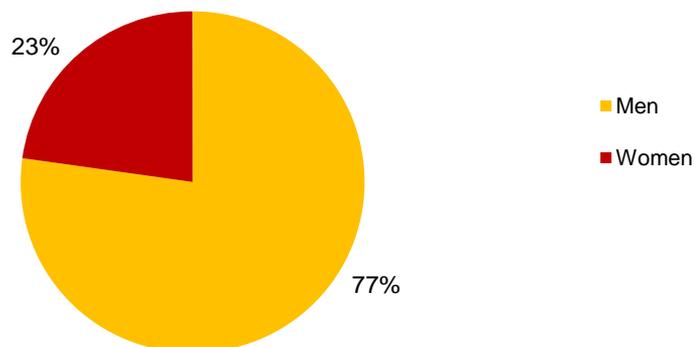
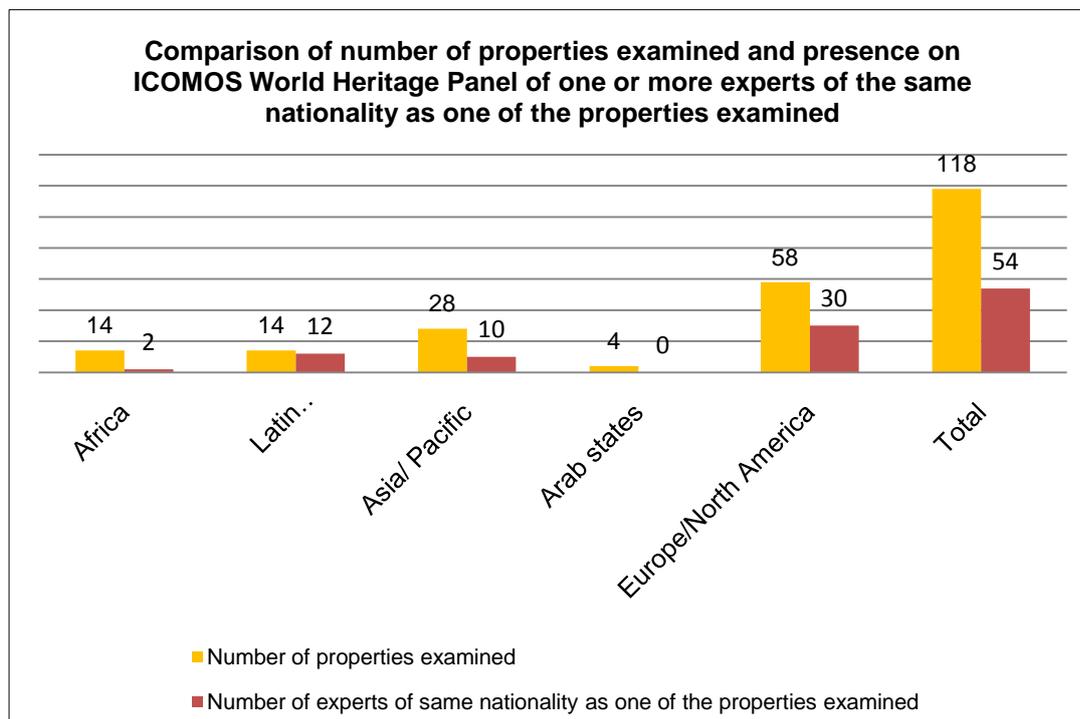


Table 8 shows, for the 4 sessions considered, that in 46% of cases (54 cases out of 118) the World Heritage Panel included one or more members who were nationals of the same country as one of the properties presented for examination.



This situation is particularly perceptible in the case of the Europe/North America region (58 properties examined with 30 experts belonging to the same country as one of the properties examined) and above all in the Latin America/Caribbean region (14 properties examined with 12 experts belonging to the same country as one of the properties examined). To avoid situations which could generate conflicts of interest or be perceived as doing so, the application principles of the ICOMOS World Heritage mandate adopted in 2006 stipulate that “a member of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel of the nationality of the country whose property is being evaluated must withdraw from discussions and the decision-making process”.

Although, when adopted, this provision represented a significant step forward compared with earlier practices, it can only be effective provided that the presence in the Panel of members of the same nationality as one of the properties examined remains exceptional or at least limited. If this situation almost becomes the rule (with a percentage as high as 46%), it is doubtful whether such a provision can effectively prevent situations likely to generate conflicts of interest or at least to be perceived as such.

The question of the composition of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel should moreover be examined in depth: in its current composition, the Panel is made up in its great majority of members of the ICOMOS Executive Committee, who are not elected or co-opted on the basis of their specific competence with regard to World Heritage texts and procedures. The question may be asked whether this mode of composition is the most appropriate for constituting the ICOMOS decision-making body for the evaluation of properties nominated for the World Heritage List.

ICOMOS should undertake a serious reflection about the composition of its World Heritage Panel, in order to deal with the four problems which emerged during the audit: the problem of imbalance in the representation of cultural regions, that of men/women parity, that of the expertise of its members with regard to the World Heritage Convention, and finally that of the frequency of presence on the Panel of members belonging to the same country as one of the properties examined.

A reflection of this type could lead to a revision of the composition of the Panel so that it brings together, on the one hand, a "hard core" made up of some Executive Committee members familiar with World Heritage texts and procedures, and on the other hand a larger number of international experts chosen for their competency in the various regions, and invited on an annual basis depending on the categories of the properties to be examined, while adopting the principle of avoiding wherever possible the presence of experts belonging to the same country as one of the properties to be examined. A measure of this type would also solve the problem of the presence in the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel of members belonging to a country which is itself a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. This situation, which has often arisen over recent years, may give rise to conflicts of interest, or at least could be perceived as doing so, and should therefore be avoided.

Furthermore, in order to make the discussion inside the Panel more thorough, ICOMOS could consider developing practices currently in force by adopting, as in the case of juries for university theses, the principle of two rapporteurs to examine each of the properties to be evaluated. Each dossier would be systematically sent to two Panel members, with their mission being to draw up a written analysis and evaluation of the draft project presented by the advisors, which would be attached to the draft project and issued to the other Panel members. Despite the difficulties raised by timetable constraints, it is essential for ICOMOS to consider practical measures for the implementation of this kind of arrangement, which would lend the Panel's debates even greater scientific rigor.

In this respect, the following recommendations are proposed:

Recommendation no. 18: HIGH PRIORITY

ICOMOS should strive to improve regional representation and men/women parity in the composition of the World Heritage Panel, while maintaining the principle of the selection of panel members on the basis of their expertise.

Recommendation no. 19: TOP PRIORITY

ICOMOS should examine the possibility of revising the composition of the World Heritage Panel so that it should bring together on the one hand a "hard core" formed by some Executive Committee members familiar with World Heritage texts and procedures and on the other hand a larger number of international experts chosen for their competency in the various regions and invited on an annual basis depending on the categories of the properties to be examined.

Recommendation no. 20: TOP PRIORITY

ICOMOS should strive to limit wherever possible the number of members of the World Heritage Panel belonging to the same country as one of the properties to be examined in the year in which the Panel meets, and to avoid the presence in the Panel of members belonging to a country which is itself a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Recommendation no. 21: NORMAL PRIORITY

ICOMOS should develop practices currently in force by adopting the principle of designating, from amongst the members of the World Heritage Panel, two rapporteurs for each of the properties examined, who are responsible for preparing a written evaluation of the draft presented by the advisors, to be attached to the draft and issued to the other Panel members.

4.6 World Heritage Working Group:

The World Heritage Working Group is an outgrowth of the ICOMOS Executive Committee, created in 2006 to guide and coordinate the work of ICOMOS under its World Heritage mandate.

The Working Group, which meets three times a year, includes ICOMOS officers, members of the World Heritage Unit and advisors. The president of ICOMOS is also an *ex officio* member and the Secretary General is kept informed of its activities.

The role of the Working Group as defined by the ICOMOS Executive Committee consists of:

- discussing procedural matters relating to ICOMOS' World Heritage mandate.
- defining conditions of representation of ICOMOS at meetings relating to the World Heritage Convention.
- disseminating the work of ICOMOS on World Heritage.
- supporting the action of the World Heritage Unit.
- ensuring that the work of the World Heritage Panel complies with the most demanding professional standards.

Compared with IUCN, which has a relatively large number of full-time employees, ICOMOS operates as an association, mainly based on the voluntary participation of its members. Because of this specific feature of ICOMOS, the Working Group takes on particular importance because it enables better coordination of actions carried out under ICOMOS' World Heritage mandate, and provides back-up for the World Heritage Unit to deal with the great increase in workload arising from the evaluation of new nominated properties and the examination of the state of conservation of properties, and also enables the establishment of a critical governance link between the elected bodies and the Secretariat personnel.

Since its creation in 2006, the Working Group has initiated thorough reflection on the application principles of ICOMOS' World Heritage mandate, and has undertaken the implementation of a large number of reforms concerning the organisation's evaluation procedures and internal practices, and the presentation of the evaluations and recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. The result of these initiatives has been a noticeable improvement in ICOMOS' services in World Heritage over the last few years, and the raising of the level of professional expertise. While maintaining the Working Group at a limited size which enables it to function effectively, it would perhaps be useful to strengthen it by incorporating 3 or 4 additional members, chosen on the basis of their competency in the World Heritage field, while ensuring that a balance is achieved in the composition of the Working Group to ensure respect for geocultural diversity.

In this respect, the following recommendation is proposed:

Recommendation No. 22: High Priority

The World Heritage Working Group is an effective instrument for the coordination of actions carried out under ICOMOS' World Heritage mandate. The ICOMOS Executive Committee should consider strengthening it by incorporating a limited number of additional members chosen for their competency in this field, while ensuring as a matter of priority respect for geocultural diversity.

4.7 World Heritage Unit:

The World Heritage Unit at the ICOMOS Secretariat is responsible for monitoring the actions and procedures relating to the whole of ICOMOS' World Heritage mandate and relations with the State Parties, the World Heritage Centre, the other advisory bodies, the national committees and the scientific committees of ICOMOS. Before the creation of the World Heritage Working Group in 2006, the World Heritage Unit carried out, in addition to its administrative and everyday follow-up tasks, the coordination of all actions relating to ICOMOS' mandate for the World Heritage, which meant that it was shouldering responsibilities which it was unable to assume. Since the creation of the Working Group, the functions of the World Heritage Unit have been framed more appropriately.

In its current composition, the World Heritage Unit has two people with permanent contracts of employment and two people recruited for a limited period. This structure seems to be substantially undersized in view of the workload it has to take on. This abnormal situation cannot continue indefinitely. The World Heritage Unit should be reinforced by the recruitment of 3 to 4 people with permanent contracts of employment, as the growing workload generated by the monitoring of the evaluation of the nominated properties and the state of conservation of the properties already inscribed require the presence of 5 to 6 people on a full-time basis. This requires an increase in the budget allocated to ICOMOS for carrying out its mandate by the World Heritage Committee.

In this respect, the following recommendation is proposed:

Recommendation No. 23: High Priority

ICOMOS should strive as a matter of priority to reinforce the World Heritage Unit to enable it to cope with the growing workload linked to the evaluation of properties nominated for inscription, and the state of conservation of properties already inscribed. An adequate budgetary line should be made available, after discussion with the World Heritage Committee, in order to provide the permanent resources for this reinforcement.

4.8 Coherence of ICOMOS evaluations and recommendations:

Over earlier years, ICOMOS faced a great deal of criticism calling into question the rigorousness of its evaluations for nominated properties and the coherence of its recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. Since the creation of the Working Group in 2006, many reforms of the evaluation process have been undertaken, the aim being to achieve “the highest possible level of professional expertise”. Since 2007, a special sitting of the World Heritage Panel has been organised at the end of each session, to ensure the coherence of the recommendations.

The purpose of this report is not to establish an evaluation of properties which is parallel to that carried out by ICOMOS, as the auditor has gone no further than to review, for each of the properties, the evaluations produced by ICOMOS with regard to the various conditions stipulated in the Convention (OUV, authenticity, integrity, etc.) and to check the coherence of the recommendations with regard to these evaluations.

Based on an analysis of the evaluation reports presented by ICOMOS to the World Heritage Committee in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, the auditor has drawn up Tables 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4 which indicate, for each of the properties examined, the ICOMOS evaluations with regard to the various conditions stipulated by the Convention (OUV, authenticity, integrity, etc.) and the corresponding recommendation to the World Heritage Committee. To ensure anonymity, the numbers of the properties in the table have been assigned at random. This analysis shows that ICOMOS evaluations and recommendations over the three years examined are globally coherent, except for some anomalies in which the recommendations seem more severe than is generally the case (for example: property no. 7 in Table 9.1 and properties no. 14, 16 and 24 in Table 9.3).

Whether these incoherencies reflect uncertainties in the evaluation process, or merely a lack of precision in the drafting of the evaluation report, it is desirable that ICOMOS should continue to give particularly close attention to the overall coherence of its evaluations, including their details. In this connection, it would be advisable, if possible, for evaluations to refer to previous ICOMOS recommendations made in similar situations.

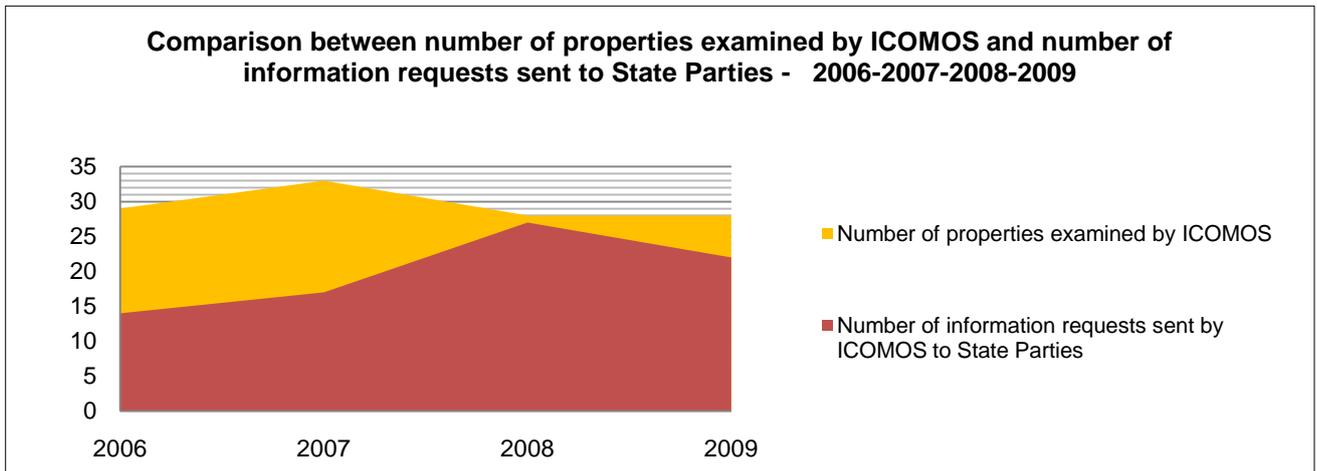
In this respect, the following recommendation is proposed:

Recommendation No. 24: Normal Priority

ICOMOS should continue the reforms already under way, so as to ensure systematic coherence between its evaluations of properties nominated for inscription and its recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. Wherever possible, the evaluations should refer to the previous recommendations of ICOMOS in similar situations.

4.9 Requests for information made to State Parties:

Table no. 3 indicates that the process of requesting information from the State Parties in the four years examined has become increasingly systematic. In 2006, with 29 properties nominated for inscription, 14 information requests were sent to the State Parties. This figure rose to 17 requests in 2007 for 33 properties examined, followed by 27 requests in 2008 for 28 properties examined, and 22 requests in 2009 for 28 properties examined.



This change seems to be a very positive development as it enables a strong reinforcement of the dialogue with the State Parties and provides a response to the accusations of “opacity” sometimes made in relation to the ICOMOS evaluation process. However ICOMOS practice recently has tended to limit information requests to properties whose evaluation has demonstrated Outstanding Universal Value. This limitation is today viewed very unfavourably by many State Parties, which consider that it deprives them of a possibility of “defending “ their dossier and explaining their approach more clearly. Accordingly, it would be advisable for ICOMOS to take a decision whereby requests for information are sent systematically to State Parties, even with regard to sites whose evaluation has not demonstrated Outstanding Universal Value.

While taking care to ensure that the content of information requests reflects the highest possible level of professionalism, ICOMOS should also pay particular attention to the formulation of the information requests, so that the role of ICOMOS is perceived by State Parties as one of aid and support, and not – as is too often the case today – as that of a “prosecutor”. To this end, information requests should be written as clearly and precisely as possible, so that State Parties can provide the appropriate responses.

Additional informations sent by the State Parties in response to the questions are examined by the Working Group in March. In past years, State Parties often failed to meet the deadline for these information requests, which is set at the end of February. In several cases, additional documents were presented by the State Parties on the eve of the World Heritage Committee meeting, and sometimes during the meeting itself, which led in fact to last-minute changes to the recommendations prepared by ICOMOS, calling into question the credibility of the decisions of the World Heritage Panel. Since 2006, this abnormal situation has been prevented, as the World Heritage Committee has decided that any additional information received from the State Parties after 1st March would not be taken into account either by the advisory bodies or by the Committee.

The consequences of this decision have been formally set out in the “Policy for the Implementation of the ICOMOS World Heritage Mandate”, which clearly specifies that “recommendations for the World Heritage Committee adopted by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panels or by a working group whose mandate is to evaluate additional information are definitive, and may only be changed or amended by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel itself”.

This decision taken by the World Heritage Committee is unfortunately not always scrupulously applied, as State Parties are sometimes authorised to intervene to present additional information when the property is being discussed by the Committee. Although this practice, contrary to the Committee’s decisions, could call into question the relevance of its recommendations, ICOMOS should nevertheless strictly apply the Committee’s decisions, and in particular, the evaluation and presentation principles stated in Article 148 h) of the Guidelines, which asks the advisory bodies to “not take into account or include any information submitted by the State Party after 31 March in the year in which the nomination is considered.”

In this respect, the following recommendations are proposed:

Recommendation No. 25: High Priority

ICOMOS should continue and confirm the procedure of systematically sending out additional information requests to the State Parties, a practice which has been developed over recent years, whenever such requests can clarify the evaluations of the properties nominated for inscription and the recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. To make the evaluation process as transparent as possible, ICOMOS should consider extending this practice to all the properties examined, even if the evaluation has not demonstrated the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties. Particular attention should be paid to the formulation of information requests, so that ICOMOS’ role should be perceived by the State Parties as being one of aid and support.

Recommendation No. 26: High Priority

In accordance with the Operational Guidelines and the decisions of the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS should apply as strictly as possible the principle of not examining additional information received from State Parties after 1st March and scrupulously respecting the procedural rules which specify that the recommendations adopted by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel (or by the Working Group for the evaluation of the additional information) are definitive, and can only be changed or amended by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel itself.

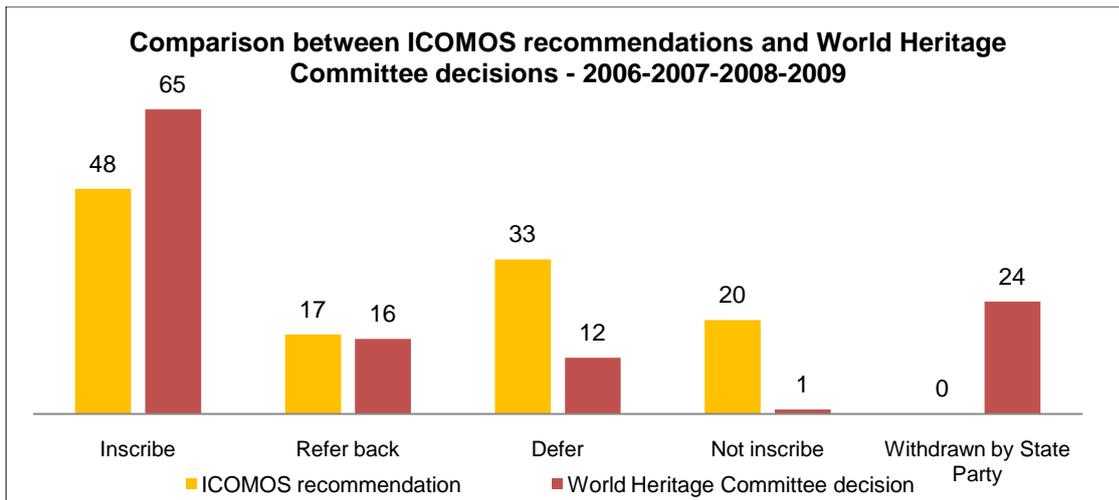
4.10 Evaluation reports and oral presentations to the World Heritage Committee:

Over recent years, ICOMOS has implemented an important reform in the structure of its evaluation reports and oral presentations to the World Heritage Committee.

Since 2007, the format of the evaluation reports has been modified to allow for the new format of nomination dossiers, new sections have been incorporated and framed conclusions summing up the content of each section and the position of ICOMOS have been added. These changes have made the evaluation reports more readable, and their presentation clearer, thus enabling the easier transmission of their content. Major changes have also been made to the oral presentation of reports to the World Heritage Committee by the adoption of a tick-box presentation highlighting the most important points in the presentation. These improvements have made it possible to pass on ICOMOS' positions and recommendations to the World Heritage Committee with greater clarity and to strengthen the credibility of its evaluations.

It should however be noted that ICOMOS' recommendations are not always followed by the World Heritage Committee. Table 10 compares ICOMOS recommendations and World Heritage Committee decisions for the three years considered. While there do not seem to be any major differences in the case of the two "extreme" recommendations (Inscribe or Do not inscribe), because many dossiers which receive low marks from ICOMOS are withdrawn by the State Parties, there are important nuances however in the case of "intermediate" recommendations (Refer back and Defer). The World Heritage Committee generally tends to be less "severe" than ICOMOS' recommendations, as a certain number of properties which were to have been referred back were finally inscribed, and some properties deferred by ICOMOS were referred back by the World Heritage Committee, as shown in Tables 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4.

These differences can easily be explained by the fact that ICOMOS evaluations are based purely on technical and scientific criteria, whereas the World Heritage Committee takes account of other considerations linked to regional and geopolitical strategies and balances.



These differences may however become more worrying when the World Heritage Committee decides to inscribe properties whose Outstanding Universal Value has not been demonstrated in accordance with the ICOMOS evaluation, as is the case for properties no. 5 and 18 in Table 9.1 and property no. 8 in Table 9.2. In these special cases, which remain limited in number (3 cases out of 118), it may be that ICOMOS' argument was not sufficiently convincing to gain the support of the World Heritage Committee. It is therefore essential that ICOMOS should continue the reforms undertaken over recent years, with a view to making its written and oral presentations to the World Heritage Committee clearer and more systematic. In this connection, it would be desirable, in the most complex cases, for the ICOMOS presentation to include reminders of earlier decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee in similar situations.

Over recent years, the distinction between the two "intermediate" recommendations (Defer and Refer back) has raised a certain number of difficulties and given rise to considerable debate in the World Heritage Committee. The Operational Guidelines define the distinction between the two types of decisions as follows:

“Referral of Nominations:

Nominations which the Committee decides to refer back to the State Party for additional information may be resubmitted to the following Committee session for examination. The additional information shall be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 February of the year in which examination by the Committee is desired. The Secretariat will immediately transmit it to the relevant Advisory Bodies for evaluation. (...)

Deferral of Nominations:

The Committee may decide to defer a nomination for more in-depth assessment or study, or a substantial revision by the State Party. Should the State Party decide to resubmit the deferred nomination, it shall be resubmitted to the Secretariat by 1 February. These nominations will then be reevaluated by the relevant Advisory Bodies during the course of the full year and a half evaluation cycle (...)

It is sometimes difficult for the World Heritage Committee to defer the inscription of a property whose Outstanding Universal Value is probable, even if the demonstration of this value requires a major revision of the nomination. In many cases, the Committee chooses not to follow the ICOMOS recommendation to defer the nomination, and adopts a referral decision. A decision of this type however has important consequences because of timetable constraints: revised nominations submitted to the Secretariat on 1st February of the year of examination by the Committee, can no longer be examined by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel and can no longer form the subject of a technical mission, even though the revisions made are often substantial, and are sometimes related to fundamental questions linked to the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

To solve this delicate problem, ICOMOS should examine, in coordination with the IUCN, the possibility of proposing to the World Heritage Committee a revision of the Operational Guidelines with a view to combining the two "intermediate" categories (Defer and Refer Back) into a single decision category ("Extend the examination"), with specific recommendations made on a case-by-case basis precisely defining the additional information and the revisions requested from the State Party, and setting out the necessary deadlines for the examination of the revised proposals by the advisory bodies.

In this respect, the following recommendations are proposed:

Recommendation No. 27: Normal Priority

ICOMOS should continue the reforms already under way, in order to make the written and oral presentations of the World Heritage Committee clearer and more systematic. The presentations could also include a recapitulation of earlier decisions by the World Heritage Committee in similar situations.

Recommendation No. 28: High Priority

In coordination with IUCN, ICOMOS should propose to the World Heritage Committee a revision of the Operational Guidelines with a view to combining the two "intermediate" categories of decisions (Defer and Refer Back) into a single decision category ("Extend the examination"), with specific recommendations made on a case-by-case basis precisely defining the additional information and the revisions requested from the State Party, and setting out the necessary deadlines for the examination of the revised proposals by the advisory bodies.

4.11 ICOMOS' relations with the other advisory bodies with regard to the evaluation process

i. Relations with IUCN:

In the process of evaluating nominated properties, the Guidelines specify that ICOMOS must "consult" IUCN for the evaluation of cultural landscapes, and that ICOMOS and IUCN must carry out a "joint" evaluation of mixed properties.

Over the four years examined, only four mixed properties were nominated, while the number of cultural landscapes has steadily increased, as indicated in paragraph 4.1 of this report. In addition to the shared evaluation of mixed properties, Table 3 shows that IUCN has often been consulted by ICOMOS during the cultural landscape evaluation process (70% of cases).

From 2008 onwards, IUCN evaluations have moreover been systematically quoted in ICOMOS reports on mixed properties and cultural landscapes. But as stressed above, the evaluation approaches of the two organisations remain totally autonomous, with a strict divide being applied between cultural values and natural values.

Alongside the development of a common strategy for ICOMOS and IUCN with regard to cultural landscapes and mixed properties (see Recommendations no. 5 and 6) it is essential for the two organisations to establish procedures ensuring greater coherence in their evaluations. In this respect, it would be desirable to consider the participation of IUCN experts in the meetings of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel devoted to the examination of cultural landscapes and mixed properties, and at the same time the participation of ICOMOS experts in the meetings of the IUCN Panel devoted to the same categories of properties. To this end, ICOMOS and IUCN should harmonise the calendars of their respective Panels, and transmit in advance their recommendations so that they can be sent to the Panel members before they are examined.

In this respect, the following recommendation is proposed:

Recommendation no. 29: TOP PRIORITY

To ensure greater coherence in the evaluation of cultural landscapes and mixed properties, it would be desirable to consider the participation of IUCN experts at ICOMOS World Heritage Panel meetings called to examine these categories of properties and, at the same time, the participation of ICOMOS experts at IUCN Panel meetings on the same categories of properties. To this end, ICOMOS and IUCN should harmonise the calendars of their respective Panels, and transmit in advance their recommendations so that they can be sent to the Panel members of the other organisation before the date of the meeting.

ii. Relations with ICCROM:

An examination of the evaluation reports over the four years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 shows that ICCROM has never been consulted by ICOMOS during the evaluation process. Although the Operational Guidelines do not give ICCROM any specific responsibilities in the process of evaluating properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, it would be useful for ICOMOS, in the course of its professional relations with this organisation, to be able to benefit from ICCROM's expertise when this is necessary, particularly in the selection of experts both for the desk review and for missions. This cooperation, already set up in some cases (in Africa in particular), could be extended in general to all regions in which ICCROM has a well established network. Collaboration with ICCROM could also be extremely useful for the training of experts and the members of the national committees of ICOMOS (see Recommendations no. 11 & 14).

In this respect, the following recommendation is proposed:

Recommendation No. 30: Normal Priority

L'ICOMOS should study with ICCROM ways in which the two organisations can cooperate in the training of experts and members of ICOMOS national committees.

4.12 The relations of ICOMOS with the World Heritage Centre with regard to the evaluation process

The role of the World Heritage Centre in the process of evaluating nominated properties as defined in the Operational Guidelines is limited to receiving the nominations sent to it by the State Parties, checking that the nominations are complete, and transmitting them to the advisory bodies for evaluation.

Over recent years, it has frequently been the case that the verification of the administrative conformity of the nominations has been carried out jointly by the World Heritage Centre and the World Heritage Unit of ICOMOS. This practice, which runs counter to the clear separation of competency between the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, has given rise to some misunderstandings with State Parties and should be avoided in the future.

Furthermore, letters sent by the State Parties in accordance with Article 150 of the Operational Guidelines describing factual errors they have noticed in the evaluation of their nominations by the advisory bodies have been examined over recent years jointly by the ICOMOS World Heritage Unit, the World Heritage Centre and the President of the World Heritage Committee session. As the Operational Guidelines state that the advisory bodies are responsible for evaluations and their presentation to the World Heritage Committee, it would be more natural for the same advisory bodies to carry out this analysis alone. Their conclusions could then be communicated to the World Heritage Centre and to the President of the World Heritage Committee session for information.

In this respect, the following recommendation is proposed:

Recommendation No. 31: Normal Priority

To respect the separation of competencies between the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies, ICOMOS should avoid intervention in the verification of the administrative conformity of the nominations. On the other hand, ICOMOS should take full responsibility for the analysis of the letters sent by the State Parties, in accordance with Article 150 of the Operational Guidelines describing the factual errors they have noticed in the evaluation of their nominations in the case of properties with cultural value.

5 Recapitulative list of recommendations

5.1 Top Priority

Recommendation No. 3:

ICOMOS should translate into the six official UNESCO languages and widely disseminate the documents already prepared or in preparation concerning the application by the World Heritage Committee of the various criteria used to justify Outstanding Universal Value (cf. Decision 32COM9 by the World Heritage Committee). These documents should be supplemented by the publication and dissemination of the resources manual relating to the preparation of nomination dossiers currently being prepared by the advisory bodies (cf. Decision 32COM9 by the World Heritage Committee) in order to constitute a working document enabling State Parties to better prepare their nomination dossiers.

Recommendation No. 5:

Because of its position as “leader” in the evaluation of cultural landscapes, ICOMOS should take the initiative of establishing very close coordination with IUCN so as to frame a common strategy leading to a synthetic approach in the evaluation of properties nominated in this category of properties, and thus overcome the rigidity of the current approach, which all too often reflects a separation between cultural values and natural values (cf. decisions 31COM9 and 32COM9 of the World Heritage Committee).

Recommendation No. 7:

ICOMOS should undertake, in collaboration with IUCN, a thorough study of the concept of serial nominations of properties, particularly developing the conditions and criteria used to evaluate the Outstanding Universal Value of the whole series, independently of its component parts, and appropriate management modes for this category of properties.

Recommendation No. 8:

ICOMOS should enter on its agenda, as a matter of priority and in collaboration with IUCN, the drawing up of draft modifications to paragraphs 137, 138 and 139 of the Guidelines, as requested by the World Heritage Committee (decision 32COM10B).

Recommendation No. 19:

ICOMOS should examine the possibility of revising the composition of the World Heritage Panel so that it should bring together on the one hand a “hard core” formed by certain members of the Executive Committee familiar with World Heritage texts and procedures and on the other hand a larger number of international experts chosen for their competency in the various regions and invited on an annual basis depending on the categories of the properties to be examined.

Recommendation No. 20:

ICOMOS should strive to limit wherever possible the number of members of the World Heritage Panel belonging to the same country as one of the properties to be examined in the year in which the Panel meets, and to avoid the presence in the Panel of members belonging to a country which is itself a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Recommendation no. 29:

To ensure greater coherence in the evaluation of cultural landscapes and mixed properties, it would be desirable to consider the participation of IUCN experts at ICOMOS World Heritage Panel meetings called to examine these categories of properties and, at the same time, the participation of ICOMOS experts at IUCN Panel meetings on the same categories of properties. To this end, ICOMOS and IUCN should harmonise the calendars of their respective Panels, and transmit in advance their recommendations so that they can be sent to the Panel members of the other organisation before the date of the meeting

5.2 High Priority

Recommendation No. 1:

ICOMOS should develop as a matter of priority and widely disseminate thematic studies relating to categories of properties and regions whose representation on the World Heritage List is limited.

Recommendation No. 4:

To allow for the increasingly important part played by Cultural Landscapes amongst the nominated properties, ICOMOS should develop even more thorough specific thematic research and studies concerning the various subcategories of Cultural Landscapes in the various regions.

Recommendation No. 6:

ICOMOS and IUCN should frame a strategy enabling better coordination of their evaluations of nominated mixed properties, so as to achieve a concerted and coherent approach by the two advisory bodies.

Recommendation No. 9:

ICOMOS should propose to the World Heritage Committee that the lead times granted to the advisory bodies for the examination of serial nominations should be extended, allowing them an additional year so that they can carry out their evaluation satisfactorily.

Recommendation No. 10:

ICOMOS should strive to more greatly develop the participation of its International Scientific Committees in the process of evaluating properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, while taking care to ensure a balance between the desirable degree of extension of the field of consultations and the confidentiality of evaluations, and to avoid situations likely to generate conflicts of interest. The research and publications produced by the International Scientific Committees should moreover be widely disseminated, and should regularly be added to the resources of the ICOMOS documentation centre.

Recommendation No. 11:

ICOMOS should study and implement measures designed to involve its National Committees more closely in the process of evaluating nominated properties and in the identification of experts. Special attention should be paid to the implementation of measures to improve the level of expertise of National Committee members with regard to the fundamental texts of the World Heritage Convention and the procedures and functioning of the World Heritage Committee.

Recommendation no. 12:

ICOMOS should consider the constitution of an external network of research centres, universities and specialist organisations in order to enrich scientific expertise covering all fields of cultural heritage and to widen the field of consultations for the evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List to include specialists who are not members of the organisation..

Recommendation No. 14:

ICOMOS should set up a programme for the training of the experts involved in technical missions and revise the format of the document issued to them before the execution of their mission, in order to better define the key questions it seems necessary to explore thoroughly for each property in particular This document could include a summary (even if only provisional) of the most important points which emerged during the desk review.

Recommendation No. 16:

ICOMOS should step up its efforts to constitute a large pool of experts with thorough training in the fundamental texts, and the procedures and operation of the World Heritage Committee. This pool would ensure a significant increase in the number of advisors involved in the property evaluation process, who would be selected amongst various cultural areas on the basis of their specific expertise in relation to the various heritage categories. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring the necessary renewal of the team of advisors, and the continuity of the ICOMOS approach in a medium and long term perspective.

Recommendation No. 17:

To ensure greater coherence in the evaluation process, ICOMOS should consider setting up a mechanism enabling advisors to work as a team, and exchange their views, particularly with regard to the most complex dossiers.

Recommendation No. 18:

ICOMOS should strive to improve regional representation and men/women parity in the composition of the World Heritage Panel, while maintaining the principle of the selection of panel members on the basis of their expertise.

Recommendation No. 22:

The World Heritage Working Group is an effective instrument for the coordination of actions carried out under ICOMOS' World Heritage mandate. The ICOMOS Executive Committee should consider strengthening it by incorporating a limited number of additional members chosen for their competency in this field, while ensuring as a matter of priority respect for geocultural diversity.

Recommendation No. 23:

ICOMOS should strive as a matter of priority to reinforce the World Heritage Unit to enable it to cope with the growing workload linked to the evaluation of properties nominated for inscription, and the state of conservation of properties already inscribed. An adequate budgetary line should be made available, after discussion with the World Heritage Committee, in order to provide the permanent resources for this reinforcement.

Recommendation No. 25:

ICOMOS should continue and confirm the procedure of systematically sending out additional information requests to the State Parties, a practice which has been developed over recent years, whenever such requests can clarify the evaluations of the properties nominated for inscription and the recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. To make the evaluation process as transparent as possible, ICOMOS should consider extending this practice to all the properties examined, even if the evaluation has not demonstrated the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties. Particular attention should be paid to the formulation of information requests, so that ICOMOS' role should be perceived by the State Parties as being one of aid and support.

Recommendation No.26:

In accordance with the Operational Guidelines and the decisions of the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS should apply as strictly as possible the principle of not examining additional information received from State Parties after 1st March and scrupulously respecting the procedural rules which specify that the recommendations adopted by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel (or by the Working Group for the evaluation of the additional information) are definitive, and can only be changed or amended by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel itself.

Recommendation No. 28:

In coordination with IUCN, ICOMOS should propose to the World Heritage Committee a revision of the Operational Guidelines with a view to combining the two "intermediate" categories of decisions (Deferral and Referral) into a single decision category ("Extend the examination"), with specific recommendations made on a case-by-case basis precisely defining the additional information and the revisions requested from the State Party, and setting out the necessary deadlines for the examination of the revised proposals by the advisory bodies.

5.3 Normal Priority

Recommendation No. 2:

ICOMOS should translate into the six official UNESCO languages and widely disseminate thematic studies already completed.

Recommendation No. 13:

With regard to the choice of its experts, ICOMOS should maintain a balance between regions and improve the gender balance.

Recommendation No. 15:

In the interest of greater transparency, ICOMOS should ask the experts to organise, at the end of their mission, a feedback session with the local and/or national authorities concerned, to take stock of the key questions which emerged during their mission, and to raise some topics which deserve closer attention, while avoiding taking up positions which could be seen as foreshadowing the evaluation results, and specifying clearly that this does not in any way constitute an official and definitive ICOMOS position.

Recommendation No. 21:

ICOMOS should develop practices currently in force by adopting the principle of designating, from amongst the members of the World Heritage Panel, two rapporteurs for each of the properties examined, who are responsible for preparing a written evaluation of the draft presented by the advisors, to be attached to the draft and issued to the other Panel members.

Recommendation No. 24:

ICOMOS should continue the reforms already under way, so as to ensure systematic coherence between its evaluations of properties nominated for inscription and its recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. Wherever possible, the evaluations should refer to the previous recommendations of ICOMOS in similar situations.

Recommendation No. 27:

ICOMOS should continue the reforms already under way, in order to make the written and oral presentations of the World Heritage Committee clearer and more systematic. The presentations could also include a recapitulation of earlier decisions by the World Heritage Committee in similar situations.

Recommendation No. 30:

L'ICOMOS should study with ICCROM ways in which the two organisations can cooperate in the training of experts and members of ICOMOS national committees.

Recommendation No. 31:

To respect the separation of competencies between the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies, ICOMOS should avoid intervention in the verification of the administrative conformity of the nominations. On the other hand, ICOMOS should take full responsibility for the analysis of the letters sent by the State Parties, in accordance with Article 150 of the Operational Guidelines describing the factual errors they have noticed in the evaluation of their nominations in the case of properties with cultural value.

**Review of ICOMOS' working methods and
procedures
for the Evaluation of cultural and mixed properties
nominated for inscription on the UNESCO world
heritage list**

Final Report

Annex No.1:

Auditor's methodological proposal

**Review of ICOMOS' working methods and procedures
for the evaluation of cultural and mixed properties
nominated for inscription on the UNESCO world heritage list**

Methodological proposal - October 2008

1. MISSION OBJECTIVES:

- i. To review the working methods and procedures applied by ICOMOS in its capacity as an advisory body of the World Heritage Committee in the evaluation of cultural or mixed properties (including Cultural landscapes) nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List. The review will consider the new procedures adopted by ICOMOS since the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban in 2005.
- ii. To propose recommendations to improve the working methods and procedures applied by ICOMOS.

2. MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION:

The mission will pay particular attention to analysing the following points:

- i. Working methods and procedures:
 - The working relations between ICOMOS, the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the other advisory bodies (IUCN, ICCROM, etc.).
 - The relations between ICOMOS and the State Parties during the evaluation process.
 - The choice of experts and their instructions for the desk review and the evaluation missions in the field.
 - The processing of additional information received from State Parties.
 - The choice and role of World Heritage advisors.
 - The functioning of the World Heritage Panel.
 - The functioning of the World Heritage working group.
 - Written and oral presentations to the World Heritage Committee.
- ii. Coherence of evaluations in relation to the World Heritage Convention and associated texts:
 - The interpretation of the concepts of outstanding universal value, authenticity and integrity in the various dossiers processed by ICOMOS.
 - The implementation of the global strategy and of the thematic studies.
 - The approach with regard to the evaluation of modes of protection, conservation and management of the nominated sites.

3. EXPECTED RESULTS:

The review will aim to produce recommendations which will help ICOMOS to continue to improve its work as an advisory body of the World Heritage Committee in the evaluation of cultural properties and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List.

The review report will consist of an internal document which will be submitted to the World Heritage working group constituted by the ICOMOS Executive Committee, which will act as the "customer" of this review, with the support of the World Heritage Unit and the ICOMOS Secretariat. Subject to the customer's approval, this report will be made public.

4. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY:

Phase 1: Data gathering:

- i. Examination of documents remitted to the ICOMOS Secretariat in Paris concerning evaluations made between the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban in 2005 and the 32nd session in Quebec in 2008.
- ii. Working meetings with Dr. Christina Cameron who has carried out a similar mission for IUCN. The meeting could take place in Paris on 13 and 14 November to coincide with the “Historic urban landscapes” experts group meeting.
- iii. Meetings in Paris with representatives of ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICCROM.
- iv. Interviews in Paris with experts who have participated in desk reviews and evaluation missions in the field.
- v. Telephone interviews with some representatives of State Parties in the various regions to gather their views and their remarks about working relations with ICOMOS.

On completion of this phase, a preliminary report will be presented to ICOMOS, with detailed proposals for Phase 2.

Phase 2: Diagnosis and proposals:

- i. Selection of a typical sample of dossiers concerning nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List which were examined by ICOMOS between the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban in 2005 and the 32nd session in Quebec in 2008. The sample will cover the various categories of cultural and mixed properties, and the various geographic regions.
- ii. In-depth case studies of the selected dossiers. The case studies will consider:
 - The methodology adopted by ICOMOS for the evaluation of the dossiers submitted by the State Parties.
 - The desk review and the evaluation missions in the field prepared by ICOMOS experts.
 - The questions put to the State Parties by ICOMOS.
 - The processing of the additional information received from the State Parties.
 - The interpretation by ICOMOS of the concepts of outstanding universal value, authenticity and integrity.
 - The implementation of the global strategy and of the thematic studies in relation to the evaluations.
 - The evaluation by ICOMOS of the modes of protection, conservation and management of the sites and of the coherence of the nominations.
 - The evaluation reports drawn up by ICOMOS and their written and oral presentation to the World Heritage Committee.
 - The decisions of the World Heritage Committee and their appropriateness with regard to ICOMOS recommendations.

A comparative analysis with similar dossiers processed by ICOMOS in the years before the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban will be carried out, to gauge the extent to which ICOMOS' methods and working procedures have changed.

- i. Evaluation of positive points, changes and dysfunctions (if any) in the evaluation process set up by ICOMOS and its working relations with the World Heritage Committee, the State Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the other advisory bodies (IUCN, ICCROM, etc.).

- ii. Proposal of measures to improve the evaluation process and the working methods of ICOMOS.

5. ICOMOS COMMITMENTS IN RELATION TO THE MISSION:

- i. ICOMOS agrees to make available all documents relating to the object of the mission, and to provide free access to the archives of the Paris secretariat.
- ii. ICOMOS agrees to facilitate contacts and working meetings with the experts, World Heritage advisors and members of the World Heritage Panel and the World Heritage Working Group.
- iii. ICOMOS will provide logistical support to the mission via the World Heritage Unit and the Secretariat.
- iv. ICOMOS agrees to meet the cost of the telephone calls to foreign countries which are necessary for carrying out the mission.

6. MISSION PERFORMANCE TIMETABLE/

The mission will commence on the date of receipt of the official letter from ICOMOS.

Phase 1 will be presented within a period of 2 months after the start of the mission.

Phase 2 will be presented within a period of 2 months from the date of approval by ICOMOS of the Phase 1 report.

J.Tabet
23/10/08

REMARKS BY ICOMOS IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL OF THE AUDITOR (DECEMBER 2008)

Response to proposed methodology for review by Jade Tabet on ICOMOS'S methods of work and procedures for evaluation of nominations for listing on the world heritage list of UNESCO

1. ICOMOS welcomes the submission of the proposed methodology, and provides the following reaction and comment to assist with the efficient and focused completion of the Review.

2. ICOMOS wishes to clarify and emphasise that it intends that the Review should focus on its methods from a strategic and operational perspective. In addition to the information provided in the Terms of Reference, it should be noted that ICOMOS has the following aims for both its internal and external review processes:

- to make the overall evaluation process as rational, open and transparent as possible;
- to make the technical evaluation process as professional as possible in terms of assessment and interpretation of outstanding universal value, authenticity, integrity, protection, conservation and management;
- to make the evaluation reports as consistent as possible, while at the same time responding to the individualities of the nominated properties;
- to undertake the evaluation process in a way that is seen to be as supportive as possible to State Parties, while at the same time maintaining the objectivity of ICOMOS, and the confidentiality of internal specialist reports;
- to work in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and other Advisory Bodies.

3. Based on the recent and ongoing work by the recently elected ICOMOS Executive Committee on its Work Plan for the triennium 2008-2011, ICOMOS considers that this Review is extremely important and timely, complementing internal assessments of its effectiveness over the past three years, and forming one of several inputs to the continuing program of improvement for the coming 3 years.

4. These processes are necessarily shaped by the availability of financial and human resources (including both the employed and voluntary resources of ICOMOS), the well-documented increases in the workload experienced by all involved in the work of the World Heritage Committee, the increasing complexity of the nominations (including large serial nominations and cultural landscapes), and the many other aspects of the World Heritage programme other than the evaluation of nominations (such as reactive monitoring, State of Conservation reporting, contributions to the Global Strategy and capacity building, thematic studies, and so on).

5. Note that there is likely to be a further stage of internal review initiated in 2009 focusing on the involvement of ICOMOS National Committees and International Scientific Committees in the World Heritage programme of ICOMOS. These aspects are therefore not considered to be priorities for the current external review process, although any matters of relevance to these questions arising will be valuable to ICOMOS.

6. ICOMOS is aware that the review has commenced and that some interviews have already occurred, in particular, taking advantage of visits to Paris by participants in the 'Historic Urban Landscapes' meeting held by UNESCO, and the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel

7. The ICOMOS Secretary-General has provided a letter of introduction to assist Mr. Tabet to make contact with interviewees and to explain the purpose and legitimacy of the review process.

8. As a further elaboration on the proposed method of review, ICOMOS would like to receive an indicative list of interviewees for the first stage of the review. This list will be useful to ensure that all relevant perspectives are adequately covered, and that there is sufficient geo-cultural diversity in the interviews. In general, the interview process should be selective and targeted, rather than exhaustive.

9. ICOMOS will make available all documents relating to its working procedures and practices. A summary of improvements made by ICOMOS has been prepared by the World Heritage Unit of the ICOMOS International Secretariat to assist the reviewer.

10. However, it is not possible to provide unlimited access to confidential internal documents, nor does ICOMOS consider that this is necessary in order to conduct the review. Accordingly, the relevant sections in 4.1 (paragraph i), 4.2 (paragraphs i and ii) and 5 (paragraph i) should be amended/deleted.

11. Part 2 (ii) of the proposed methodology should be amended/expanded to ensure that the review considers the overall processes in place to ensure consistency in the interpretation of OUV, authenticity, integrity, etc. This should also consider the process in place to deliver Thematic Studies, as agreed by the World Heritage Committee.

12. In Phase 2, ICOMOS questions the rationale for conducting a comparative analysis with cases occurring in the years prior to the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (Durban, 2005), since the emphasis of the Review is on the progress of improvements since that time. However, this can be discussed further prior to the commencement of Phase 2.

ICOMOS agrees with the major elements of the proposed methodology. It is agreed that the detailed methodology for 'Phase 2' will need to be further discussed and agreed following the completion of 'Phase 1'.

ICOMOS, Paris

December 2008

Final Report

Annex No. 2: tick-box tables

To ensure coherency, the Tables do not take into account properties which have not undergone a full evaluation cycle (properties referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee, minor modifications, etc.) and which therefore:

- have not received an ICOMOS mission during the year preceding presentation to the World Heritage Committee,
- have not been examined by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel during the year preceding presentation to the World Heritage Committee.

Table 1: Number of nominated properties examined by ICOMOS in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Table 1- 2006 NUMBER OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES EXAMINED BY ICOMOS										
REGION	SITES					GROUPS OF BUILDINGS			ISOLATED MONUMENTS	TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archaeo	Rock art	Other	Sub-total	Historic towns	Monumental groups	Sub-total		
AFRICA	2 ⁽¹⁾	3	2	-	7	1		1	-	8
LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
ASIA PACIFIC	1	2	-	-	3	-	1 ⁽²⁾	1	-	4
ARAB STATES	1 ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	1	-	1 ⁽²⁾	1	-	2
EUROPE/ NORTH AMERICA	2	-	-	-	2	4	3 ⁽³⁾	7	3	12
TOTAL	8	6	2	-	16	5	5	10	3	29

⁽¹⁾ Including 2 mixed properties ⁽²⁾ Serial inscription ⁽³⁾ Including 2 serial inscriptions

Making a total of 29 properties, including 2 mixed properties and 5 serial inscriptions

Table 1- 2007 NUMBER OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES EXAMINED BY ICOMOS										
REGION	SITES					ENSEMBLES			ISOLATED MONUMENTS	TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archaeo	Rock art	Other	Sub-total	Historic towns	Monumental groups	Sub-total		
AFRICA	2 ⁽¹⁾	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	2
ASIA PACIFIC	4	3 ⁽²⁾	-	1 ⁽²⁾	8	-	-	-	2	10
ARAB STATES	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
EUROPE/ NORTH AMERICA	6 ⁽²⁾	1	-	1	8	6 ⁽²⁾	2	8	1	17
TOTAL	12	5	1	2	20	7	3	10	3	33

⁽¹⁾ Including 1 mixed property and 1 serial inscription ⁽²⁾ Including 1 serial inscription

Making a total of 33 properties, including 1 mixed property and 5 serial inscriptions

Table 1- 2008 NUMBER OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES EXAMINED BY ICOMOS										
REGION	SITES					GROUPS OF BUILDINGS			ISOLATED MONUMENTS	TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archaeo	Rock art	Other	Sub-total	Historic towns	Monumental groups	Sub-total		
AFRICA	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	3	1	5
ASIA PACIFIC	4	-	-	1	5	1	3 ⁽¹⁾	4	-	9
ARAB STATES	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
EUROPE/ NORTH AMERICA	1	-	1 ⁽²⁾	2 ⁽²⁾	4	2	4 ⁽³⁾	6	2 ⁽²⁾	12
TOTAL	7	1	1	3	12	5	8	13	3	28

⁽¹⁾ Including 3 serial inscriptions ⁽²⁾ Including 1 serial inscription ⁽³⁾ Including 2 serial inscriptions
 Making a total of 28 properties, including 8 serial inscriptions

Table 1- 2009 NUMBER OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES EXAMINED BY ICOMOS (excluding minor modifications)										
REGION	SITES					GROUPS OF BUILDINGS			ISOLATED MONUMENTS	TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archaeo	Rock art	Other	Sub-total	Historic towns	Monumental groups	Sub-total		
AFRICA	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2
LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN	1 ⁽¹⁾	1	-	-	2	-	1 ⁽¹⁾	1	-	3
ASIA PACIFIC	1 ⁽³⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	-	-	2	-	3 ⁽¹⁾	3	1	6
ARAB STATES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EUROPE/ NORTH AMERICA	3 ⁽¹⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	-	-	4	3	3	6	5	15
TRANSREGIONAL PROPERTIES	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 ⁽²⁾	2	-	2
TOTAL	5	3	-	-	8	5	9	14	6	28

⁽¹⁾ Including 1 serial inscription ⁽²⁾ Including 2 serial inscriptions ⁽³⁾ Including 1 serial inscription and 1 mixed property
 Making a total of 28 properties, including 9 serial inscriptions and 1 mixed property

Table 1- TOTAL 2006/2007/2008/2009 NUMBER OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES EXAMINED BY ICOMOS

REGION	SITES					GROUPS OF BUILDINGS			ISOLATED MONUMENTS	TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archæo	Rock art	Other	Sub-total	Historic towns	Monumental groups	Sub-total		
AFRICA	5 ⁽¹⁾	3	3	-	11	3	-	3	-	14
LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN	4 ⁽²⁾	2	-	-	6	3	3 ⁽²⁾	6	1	13
ASIA PACIFIC	10 ⁽⁶⁾	6 ⁽³⁾	-	2 ⁽²⁾	18	1	7 ⁽⁵⁾	8	3	29
ARAB STATES	1 ⁽²⁾	2	-	-	3	-	1 ⁽²⁾	1	-	4
EUROPE/ NORTH AMERICA	12 ⁽³⁾	2 ⁽²⁾	1 ⁽²⁾	3 ⁽²⁾	18	15 ⁽²⁾	12 ⁽⁴⁾	27	11 ⁽²⁾	56
TRANSREGIONAL PROPERTIES	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 ⁽²⁾	2	-	2
TOTAL	32	15	4	5	56	22	25	47	15	118

⁽¹⁾ Including 3 mixed properties and 1 serial inscription ⁽²⁾ Including 1 serial inscription ⁽³⁾ Including 2 serial inscriptions ⁽⁴⁾ Including 4 serial inscriptions

⁽⁵⁾ Including 5 serial inscriptions ⁽⁶⁾ Including 1 serial inscription and 1 mixed property

Making a total of 118 properties, including 4 mixed properties and 27 serial inscriptions

Table 2: Number of nominated properties having benefited from international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for the preparation of nominations in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Table 2- 2006. NUMBER OF PROPERTIES HAVING BENEFITED FROM INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND FOR THE PREPARATION OF NOMINATIONS										
REGION	SITES					GROUPS OF BUILDINGS				TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archæo	Rock art	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.	Historic towns	Monumental groups	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.	
AFRICA	2 ⁽¹⁾	2	2	N=2 D=1 R=1 Ins=2	<i>Wtd=2</i> <i>Ins=4</i>	1	-	Ins	<i>Ins</i>	7
ASIA PACIFIC	1	-	-	D	<i>R</i>	-	-	-	-	1
ARAB STATES	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	R	<i>Ins</i>	1
TOTAL	3	2	2	N=2 D=2 R=1 Ins=2	<i>Wtd=2</i> <i>R=1</i> <i>Ins=4</i>	1	1	Ins=1 R=1	<i>Ins=2</i>	9

(1) Including 2 mixed properties

Table 2- 2007. NUMBER OF PROPERTIES HAVING BENEFITED FROM INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND FOR THE PREPARATION OF NOMINATIONS										
REGION	SITES					GROUPS OF BUILDINGS				TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archæo	Rock art	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.	Historic towns	Monumental groups	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.	
AFRICA	2 ⁽¹⁾	-	-	D=1 Ins=1	<i>R=1</i> <i>Ins=1</i>	-	-	-	-	2
ASIA PACIFIC	1	1	-	D=2	<i>R=1</i> <i>D=1</i>	-	-	-	-	2
ARAB STATES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	1	-	D=3 Ins=1	<i>R=2</i> <i>D=1</i> <i>Ins=1</i>	-	-	-	-	4

(1) Including 1 mixed property and 1 serial inscription

Table 2- 2008. NUMBER OF PROPERTIES HAVING BENEFITED FROM INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND FOR THE PREPARATION OF NOMINATIONS										
REGION	SITES					GROUPS OF BUILDINGS				TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archæo	Rock art	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.	Historic towns	Monumental groups	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.	
AFRICA	1	-	-	Ins	<i>Ins</i>	-	-			1
ASIA PACIFIC	1	-	-	D	<i>D</i>	-	-			1
ARAB STATES	-	-	-			-	-			-
TOTAL	2	-	-	D=1 Ins=1	<i>D=1 Ins=1</i>	-	-			2

Table 2- 2009. NUMBER OF PROPERTIES HAVING BENEFITED FROM INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND FOR THE PREPARATION OF NOMINATIONS										
REGION	SITES					GROUPS OF BUILDINGS				TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archæo	Rock art	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.	Historic towns	Monumental groups	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.	
AFRICA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-
ASIA PACIFIC	-	1 ⁽¹⁾	-	N	<i>Wtd</i>	-	-			1
ARAB STATES	-	-	-			-	-			-
TOTAL	-	1	-	N=1	<i>Wtd=1</i>	-	-			1

(1) Including 1 serial inscription

(2)

Table 2- TOTAL 2006-2007-2008-2009. NUMBER OF PROPERTIES HAVING BENEFITED FROM INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND FOR THE PREPARATION OF NOMINATIONS

REGION	SITES					GROUPS OF BUILDINGS				TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archæo	Rock art	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.	Historic towns	Monumental groups	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.	
AFRICA	5 ⁽¹⁾	2	2	N=2 D=2 R=1 Ins=4	<i>Wtd=2</i> <i>R=1 Ins=6</i>	1	-	Ins	<i>Ins</i>	10
ASIA PACIFIC	3	2 ⁽²⁾	-	D=4 N=1	<i>D=2 R=2</i> <i>Wtd=1</i>	-	-			5
ARAB STATES	-	-	-			-	1	R	<i>Ins</i>	1
TOTAL	8	3	2	N=3 D=6 R=1 Ins=4	<i>Wtd=3</i> <i>D=2</i> <i>R=3 Ins=6</i>	1	1	Ins=1 R=1	<i>Ins=2</i>	16

(1) Including 3 mixed properties and 1 serial inscription (2) Including 1 serial inscription

Table 3: ICOMOS property evaluation process in 2006, 2007,2008 and 2009.

Table 3- 2006 – ICOMOS PROPERTY EVALUATION PROCESS								
	SITES				GROUPS OF BUILDINGS		ISOLATED MONUMENTS	TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archæology	Rock art	Other	Historic towns	Monumental groups		
Number of properties nominated	8	6	2		5	5	3	29
Technical mission	8	6	2		5	4	3	28
Consultation of ICOMOS scientific committees	8	6	2		5	3	2	26
External consultation of specialist bodies	3						1	4
Consultation of IUCN (Cultural landscapes and mixed properties)	5							5
Request for information from State Party	6	2	1		2	2	1	14

Table 3- 2007 – ICOMOS PROPERTY EVALUATION PROCESS								
	SITES				GROUPS OF BUILDINGS		ISOLATED MONUMENTS	TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archæology	Rock Art	Other	Historic towns	Monumental groups		
Number of properties nominated	12	5	1	2	7	3	3	33
Technical mission	12	4	1	2	7	3	3	32
Consultation of ICOMOS scientific committees	12	5	1	2	7	3	2	32
External consultation of specialist bodies	2			1		2	1	6
Consultation of IUCN (Cultural landscapes and mixed properties)	7							7
Request for information from State Party	6	3		1	3	2	2	17

Table 3- 2008 – ICOMOS PROPERTY EVALUATION PROCESS								
	SITES				GROUPS OF BUILDINGS		ISOLATED MONUMENT S	TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archæology	Rock Art	Other	Historic towns	Monumental groups		
Number of properties nominated	7	1	1	3	5	8	3	28
Technical mission	7	1	1	3	4	8	3	27
Consultation of ICOMOS scientific committees	7	1	1	3	4	7	2	25
External consultation of specialist bodies				3		1		4
Consultation of IUCN (Cultural landscapes and mixed properties)	4							4
Request for information from State Party	7	1	1	3	4	8	3	27

Table 3- 2009 – ICOMOS PROPERTY EVALUATION PROCESS								
	SITES				GROUPS OF BUILDINGS		ISOLATED MONUMENT S	TOTAL
	Cultural landscapes	Archæology	Rock Art	Other	Historic towns	Monumental groups		
Number of properties nominated	5	3	-	-	5	9	6	28
Technical mission	5	3	-	-	5	9	6	28
Consultation of ICOMOS scientific committees	5	3	-	-	4	6	3	21
External consultation of specialist bodies	-	-	-	-	2	4	1	7
Consultation of IUCN (Cultural landscapes and mixed properties)	5	-	-	-	-	1		6
Request for information from State Party	4	1	-	-	4	9	4	22

Table 3- TOTAL 2006-2007-2008-2009 – ICOMOS PROPERTY EVALUATION PROCESS

	SITES				GROUPS OF BUILDINGS		ISOLATED MONUMENT S	TOTAL
	Cultural landscape s	Archæology	Rock Art	Other	Historic towns	Monumental groups		
Number of properties nominated	32	15	4	5	22	25	15	118
Technical mission	32	14	4	5	21	24	15	115
Consultation of ICOMOS scientific committees	32	15	4	5	20	18	9	103
External consultation of specialist bodies	5			4	2	7	3	21
Consultation of IUCN (Cultural landscapes and mixed properties)	21					1		22
Request for information from State Party	23	7	2	4	13	21	10	80

Table 4: Breakdown by region of properties examined and of ICOMOS experts - 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

BREAKDOWN BY REGION OF PROPERTIES EXAMINED AND OF ICOMOS EXPERTS								
	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Number of properties evaluated per region	Number of experts per region	Number of properties evaluated per region	Number of experts per region	Number of properties evaluated per region	Number of experts per region	Number of properties evaluated per region	Number of experts per region
AFRICA	8	7	3	3	1	1	2	2
Latin America Caribbean	3	3	2	1	5	5	3	4
Asia Pacific	4	3	9	8	9	7	6	5
Arab States	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Europe, North America	12	15	18	20	12	15	15	22
Transregional properties							2	*

*ICOMOS experts having carried out missions relating to transregional properties have been included in their region of origin.

Table 5: Breakdown by gender of ICOMOS experts in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

BREAKDOWN BY GENDER OF ICOMOS EXPERTS			
YEAR	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
2006	22	6	28
2007	21	11	32
2008	21	7	28
2009	21	12	33
TOTAL	85 (70%)	36 (30%)	121 (100%)

Table 6: Breakdown by region of ICOMOS World Heritage Panel members in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

BREAKDOWN BY REGION OF ICOMOS WORLD HERITAGE PANEL MEMBERS, EXCLUDING ADVISORS						
	Africa	Latin America Caribbean	Asia Pacific	Arab States	Europe North America	TOTAL
January 2006	2	4	4	-	15	25
January 2007	2	3	6	1	16	28
December 2007	1	3	5	-	14	23
November 2008	3	3	5	-	14	25
TOTAL	8	13	20	1	59	101

Table 7: Breakdown by gender of ICOMOS World Heritage Panel in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

BREAKDOWN BY GENDER OF ICOMOS WORLD HERITAGE PANEL MEMBERS, EXCLUDING ADVISORS			
	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
January 2006	21	4	25
January 2007	21	7	28
December 2007	17	6	23
November 2008	19	6	25
TOTAL	78	23	101

Table 8: Comparison of number of properties examined by ICOMOS World Heritage Panel in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and presence on panel of experts from the same country as one of the properties examined.

Comparison of number of properties evaluated by the World Heritage Panel and presence on panel of experts from the same country as one of the properties examined										
	Africa		Latin America/ Caribbean		Asia Pacific		Arab States		Europe / North America	
Date of panel	Number of properties examined	Number of experts from same country as one of the properties examined	Number of properties examined	Number of experts from same country as one of the properties examined	Number of properties examined	Number of experts from same country as one of the properties examined	Number of properties examined	Number of experts from same country as one of the properties examined	Number of properties examined	Number of experts from same country as one of the properties examined
January 2006	8	-	4	4	3	1	2	-	12	6
January 2007	3	1	2	2	10	3	1	-	17	9
December 2007	1	1	5	4	9	2	1	-	12	6
November 2008	2	-	3	2	6	4	-	-	17	9
Total	14	2	14	12	28	10	4	-	58	30

Table 9: Evaluation of properties, ICOMOS recommendations and World Heritage Committee decisions in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Table 9-1: 2006 – Evaluation of properties, ICOMOS recommendations and WHC decisions (excluding properties deferred at previous Committee sessions and excluding minor modifications)

Property number*	Outstanding Universal Value	Integrity	Authenticity	Comparative study	Boundaries	Conservation	Protection & management	ICOMOS recommendation	WHC decision
1	-	+ -	+	-	+ -	?	+ -	N	Wtd
2	+ -	+	+	-	?	?	+ -	D	Wtd
3	+ -	+ -	+	+ -	?	+ -	+ -	D	R
4	+	+	+	+ -	+ -	+	+	I	I
5	+ -	+ -	+ -	?	+ -	+ -	+ -	D	I
6	+	+	+	+	+	+ -	+	I	I
7	+	+	+	-	+	+	+ -	R	I
8	+	+	+	+	?	+ -	+	I	I
9	+ -	+ -	+	+ -	+ -	-	-	D	D
10	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
11	+	+	+	+	+	+	+ -	I	I
12	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
13	+ -	+ -	+	+ -	+ -	?	+ -	D	R
14	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
15	+	+	+	?	-	?	-	R	I
16	+	+	+	+ -	+	+ -	-	R	I
17	+	+	+	+	+	+ -	-	R	I
18	+ -	+ -	+ -	+ -	+ -	+ -	+ -	D	I
19	-	+ -	-	+ -	+ -	+ -	+ -	N	Wtd
20	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
21	+ -	+ -	+ -	+ -	-	+ -	+	D	Wtd
22	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
23	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
24	-	+	+	-	?	+	+	N	Wtd
25	-	+	+	-	?	+	+	N	Wtd
26	+	+	+	+	-	+	+ -	R	I
27	+ -	+	+	+ -	-	+ -	+ -	D	D
28	-	+	+	-	?	+	+ -	NA	Wtd
29	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	EA+Risk	EA+Risk

*To ensure anonymity, numbers have been allocated to properties on a random basis.

+ OK + - Not demonstrated at this stage - Not OK + Good + - Moderate, can be improved - Not acceptable
N: Not inscribed **D:** Deferred **R:** Referred back **I:** Inscribed **Wtd:** Withdrawn by State Party **NA:** Not approved for extensions
EA: Approved for extensions

table 9-2: 2007 - Evaluation of properties, ICOMOS recommendations and WHC decisions (excluding properties deferred at previous Committee sessions and excluding minor modifications)

Property number*	Outstanding Universal Value	Integrity	Authenticity	Comparative study	Boundaries	Conservation	Protection & management	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.
1	+	+	+	+	+-	+-	+-	I	I
2	+-	+-	+	+-	+-	+-	+-	D	R
3	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
4	-	-	-	-	+	-	+-	N	Wtd
5	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
6	+	+	+	+	+	+-	+-	I	I**
7	+	+	+	+	+	+-	+	I	I
8	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+	D	I
9	+	+-	+	+	+-	+	-	R	R
10	+-	+-	+-	-	+-	+-	+-	D	R
11	+-	+	+	+-	+	+	+-	D	D
12	+	+	+	+	+-	+-	+	I	I
13	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	i
14	+	+	+	+	+	+-	+-	I	I
15	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	D	I
16	+-	+	+	+-	+	+-	+-	D	D
17	+	+	+	+-	+	-	+-	R	I
18	+	+	+	+	+-	+	+	I	I
19	-	-	-	-	-	+	+-	N	Wtd
20	+-	+	+-	-	+-	+-	+	D	Wtd
21	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
22	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
23	+-	+	+	?	+-	+	+	R	R
24	+-	-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	D	Wtd
25	-	-	-	-	+	+	+-	N	Wtd
26	-	+	+-	+-	+	+	+	N	Wtd
27	-	+	+	-	+	-	+-	N	D
28	-	-	-	+-	+-	+	+	N	Wtd
29	+	+	+	+	+	+-	+-	I	I
30	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
31	+-	+	+	+-	+	+-	+-	D	R
32	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+	D	D
33	+	+-	+	+-	-	+-	+-	R	I

* To ensure anonymity, numbers have been allocated to properties on a random basis.

**Agreement in principle, inscription deferred until 2008

+ OK +- Not demonstrated at this stage - Not OK

+ Good acceptable +- Moderate, can be improved - Not acceptable
N: Not inscribed **D:** Deferred **R:** Referred back **I:** Inscribed
Wtd: Withdrawn by State Party

Table 9-3: 2008 - Evaluation of properties, ICOMOS recommendations and WHC decisions (excluding properties deferred at previous Committee sessions and excluding minor modifications)

Property number *	Outstanding Universal Value	Integrity	Authenticity	Comparative study	Boundaries	Conservation	Protection & management	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.
1	+	+ -	+	+	+	+ -	+ -	I	I
2	+ -	+ -	+ -	-	-	+ -	-	N	Wtd
3	+ -	+ -	+	-	-	+	+ -	D	R
4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
5	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
6	+	+	+	+	+	-	+ -	R	R
7	+	+	+	+	+	+ -	+	I	I
8	+ -	+ -	+ -	-	-	+	+ -	D	D
9	+ -	+ -	+ -	+ -	-	?	+ -	D	D
10	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
11	+ -	+ -	+ -	+ -	-	+	+ -	D	D
12	+	+	+	+	+ -	+ -	+ -	R	I
13	+	+	+	+	+ -	+	+ -	I	I
14	+	+ -	+	+	-	+ -	+ -	D	I
15	+	+	+	+	+	+	+ -	EA	EA
16	+	+	+	+	+	+ -	+ -	R	I
17	+	+	+	+	+	+	+ -	I	I
18	+	+ -	+ -	+	-	+ -	+ -	R	I
19	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
20	+ -	-	-	-	-	+ -	+ -	N	Wtd
21	+	+	+	+	+	+ -	+ -	I	R
22	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
23	+ -	+	+	+ -	+	+	+ -	D	D
24	+	+	+	+	+	+ -	+ -	R	I
25	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
26	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
27	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	EA
28	+	+	+	+	+	+	+ -	EA	EA

* To ensure anonymity, numbers have been allocated to properties on a random basis.

+ OK + - Not demonstrated at this stage - Not OK + Good + - Moderate, can be improved - Not acceptable
N: Not inscribed **D:** Deferred **R:** Referred back **I:** Inscribed **Wtd:** Withdrawn by State Party **NA:** Not approved for extensions
EA: Approved for extensions

Table 9-4: 2009 - Evaluation of properties, ICOMOS recommendations and WHC decisions (excluding properties deferred at previous Committee sessions and excluding minor modifications)

Property number *	Outstanding Universal Value	Integrity	Authenticity	Comparative study	Boundaries	Conservation	Protection & management	ICOMOS recomm.	WHC decis.
1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+-	R	I
2	-	-	-	-	-	+-	+-	N	Wtd
3	+-	-	-	-	+-	-	+-	D	Wtd
4	+	+-	+	+	+	+	+-	R	I
5	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	D	R
6	+-	-	-	-	+-	+-	+	D	D
7	+	+	+-	+	+	+-	+	I	I
8	+-	+-	+-	-	+-	+	+-	D	R
9	+	+	+-	+	+	+-	+	I	I
10	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
11	-	+-	+-	+-	-	+-	+-	NA	NA
12	-	+-	+	-	+	+	+-	N	Wtd
13	-	+	+-	-	+-	+	+	N	Wtd
14	-	+-	+-	-	+-	-	+-	N	Wtd
15	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
16	-	-	-	-	+-	+-	+-	N	Wtd
17	+	+	+	+	+	+	+-	I	I
18	+-	+-	+	+-	+	+	+	D	R
19	+-	+-	+-	+-	+-	+	+-	D	R
20	+-	-	+	-	+-	+	+-	D	Wtd
21	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	N	Wtd
22	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
23	+-	-	-	-	+-	+	+-	D	D
24	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	I
25	+-	+-	+	+	+-	+	+-	D	R
26	+	+-	+	+	+	+-	+	EA	EA
27	+	+	+	+	+	+-	+-	R	R
28	+	+	+	+	+	+	+-	EA	EA

* To ensure anonymity, numbers have been allocated to properties on a random basis.

+ OK +- Not demonstrated at this stage - Not OK + Good +- Moderate, can be improved - Not acceptable
N: Not inscribed **D:** Deferred **R:** Referred back **I:** Inscribed **Wtd:** Withdrawn by State Party **NA:** Not approved for extensions
EA: Approved for extensions

Table 10: Comparison of ICOMOS recommendations and World Heritage Committee decisions in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009

(1) Or Approval for extensions (2) Including 1 inscribed on Heritage at Risk List

TABLE 10- 2006. COMPARISON BETWEEN ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS & WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISIONS (Number of properties excluding properties deferred at previous Committee sessions and excluding minor modifications)										
REGION	ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION				WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISION				WITHDRAWN BY STATE PARTY	TOTAL
	Ins. ⁽¹⁾	Ref.	Def.	N or NA	Ins. ⁽¹⁾	Ref.	Def.	N or NA		
AFRICA	3	1	3	1	5	1			2	8
LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN	2		1		2		1			3
ASIA PACIFIC	2	1	1		3	1				4
ARAB STATES		2			2					2
EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA	4	1	3	4	6 ⁽²⁾		1		5	12
No. of PROPERTIES	11	5	8	5	18	2	2		7	29

(1) Or Approval for extensions (3) Including 1 agreement in principle with inscription deferred until 2008

TABLE 10- 2007. COMPARISON BETWEEN ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS & WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISIONS (Number of properties excluding properties deferred at previous Committee sessions and excluding minor modifications)										
REGION	ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION				WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISION				WITHDRAWN BY STATE PARTY	TOTAL
	Ins. ⁽¹⁾	Ref.	Def.	N or NA	Ins. ⁽¹⁾	Ref.	Def.	N or NA		
AFRICA	2		1		2	1				3
LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN	1			1	1				1	2
ASIA PACIFIC	5	1	3		6 ⁽³⁾	2	1			9
ARAB STATES			1		1					1
EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA	5	3	5	5	7	2	3		6	18
No. OF PROPERTIES	13	4	10	6	17	5	4		7	33

TABLE 10- 2008. COMPARISON BETWEEN ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS & WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISIONS (Number of properties excluding properties deferred at previous Committee sessions and excluding minor modifications)										
REGION	ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION				WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISION				WITHDRAWN BY STATE PARTY	TOTAL
	Ins. ⁽¹⁾	Ref.	Def.	N or NA	Ins. ⁽¹⁾	Ref.	Def.	N or NA		
AFRICA	1				1					1
LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN	2	1	1	1	2	2			1	5
ASIA PACIFIC	4	1	4		6		3			9
ARAB STATES		1			1					1
EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA	8	2	1	1	9	1	1		1	12
No. OF PROPERTIES	15	5	6	2	19	3	4		2	28

(1) Or Approval for extensions

TABLE 10- 2009. COMPARISON BETWEEN ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS & WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISIONS (Number of properties excluding properties deferred at previous Committee sessions and excluding minor modifications)										
REGION	ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION				WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISION				WITHDRAWN BY STATE PARTY	TOTAL
	Ins. ⁽¹⁾	Ref.	Def.	N or NA	Ins. ⁽¹⁾	Ref.	Def.	N or NA		
AFRICA		1	1		1	1				2
LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN	1		1		1		1			2
ASIA PACIFIC	2	1	1	2	3	1		1	1	6
ARAB STATES										
EUROPE NORTH AMERICA	6	1	4	5	6	2	1		7	16
TRANSREGIONAL PROPERTIES			2			2				2
No. OF PROPERTIES	9	3	9	7	11	6	2	1	8	28

(1) Or Approval for extensions

TABLE 10-TOTAL 2006-2007-2008 AND 2009. COMPARISON BETWEEN ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS & WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISIONS (Number of properties excluding properties deferred at previous Committee sessions and excluding minor modifications)										
REGION	ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION				WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISION				WITHDRAWN BY STATE PARTY	TOTAL
	Ins. ⁽¹⁾	Ref.	Def.	N or NA	Ins. ⁽¹⁾	Ref.	Def.	N or NA		
AFRICA	6	2	5	1	9	3			2	14
LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN	6	1	3	2	6	2	2		2	12
ASIA PACIFIC	13	4	9	2	18	4	4	1	1	28
ARAB STATES		3	1		4					4
EUROPE NORTH AMERICA	23	7	13	15	28	5	6		19	58
TRANSREGIONAL PROPERTIES			2			2				2
No. OF PROPERTIES	48	17	33	20	65	16	12	1	24	118

(1) Or Approval for extensions

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Annex No. 3: List of documents consulted by auditor

1 ICOMOS DOCUMENTS:

- Documents de référence de l'ICOMOS dans le cadre du Patrimoine mondial (novembre 2007) (*ICOMOS World Heritage reference documents – November 2007*)
 - Principes d'application du mandat de l'ICOMOS pour le Patrimoine mondial (*Policy for the Implementation of the ICOMOS World Heritage Mandate*)
 - Notes d'information pour les membres de la commission du Patrimoine mondial de l'ICOMOS (*Memoranda for members of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel*)
 - Orientations pour les missions d'évaluation technique du Patrimoine mondial (*Operational guidelines for World Heritage technical evaluation missions*)
 - Liste des études thématiques (*List of thematic studies*)
- Report of the World Heritage Working Group on its activities-ICOMOS Advisory Committee Meeting- Quebec, Canada 27-28 September 2008
- Valeur universelle exceptionnelle: Recueil des normes pour l'inscription des biens culturels sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial (Compendium)- ICOMOS- Mai 2008 (*OUV: Compendium of standards for the inscription of cultural properties on the World Heritage List*)
- Improvements done in relation to World Heritage nomination process from 2005 to 2008 – December 2008
- Call for Expressions of Interest - ICOMOS World Heritage Advisors February 2009
- ICOMOS World Heritage Advisors –Answers to Frequently Asked Questions June 2009
- Briefing confidentiel pour le Comité exécutif de l'ICOMOS: Étapes du processus d'appel à candidature pour les Conseillers du patrimoine mondial de l'ICOMOS. Juin 2009 (*Confidential briefing for the ICOMOS Executive Committee: Stages in the call for applications process for ICOMOS World Heritage Advisors. June 2009*)

2 STANDARD LETTERS AND FORMS:

- Modèle de lettre adressée par l'ICOMOS aux Etats parties concernant les demandes d'information complémentaires. (*Standard letter sent by ICOMOS to State Parties concerning additional information requests*)
- Modèle de lettre adressée par l'ICOMOS aux Etats parties les informant de la date pressentie pour la mission d'évaluation technique et du nom de l'expert qui effectuera cette mission. (*Standard letter sent by ICOMOS to State Parties informing them of the date scheduled for the technical evaluation mission and the name of the expert to carry out the mission*).
- Modèle de rapport de mission d'évaluation technique. (*Standard form of technical evaluation mission report*).
- Modèle de lettre adressée par l'ICOMOS aux experts consultés dans le cadre du processus d'évaluation des biens. (*Standard letter sent by ICOMOS to experts consulted during the property evaluation process*).
- Modèle de fiche d'évaluation des biens présentés pour examen par la Commission du Patrimoine Mondial de l'ICOMOS. (*Standard form for the evaluation of properties presented for examination by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel*)
- Modèles de rapport d'évaluation pour différentes catégories de biens présentés au Comité du Patrimoine mondial. (*Standard form of evaluation report for various categories of properties presented to the World Heritage Committee*).
- Modèles de présentation powerpoint pour différentes catégories de biens présentés au Comité du Patrimoine mondial. (*Standard Powerpoint presentation forms for various categories of properties presented to the World Heritage Committee*).

3 UNESCO DOCUMENTS:

- WHC-06/30.COM/INF.8B.1- 30ème session du Comité du Patrimoine mondial (Vilnius, 2006) Evaluation des biens culturels préparées par le Conseil International des

Monuments et Sites (ICOMOS) (30th session of World Heritage Committee – Vilnius, 2006 – Evaluation of cultural properties prepared by ICOMOS)

- WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1- 31^{ème} session du Comité du Patrimoine Mondial (Christchurch, 2007) Evaluation des biens culturels préparées par le Conseil International des Monuments et Sites (ICOMOS) (31st session of World Heritage Committee – Christchurch, 2007 – Evaluation of cultural properties prepared by ICOMOS)
- WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B.1- 32^{ème} session du Comité du Patrimoine Mondial (Québec, 2008) Evaluation des biens culturels préparées par le Conseil International des Monuments et Sites (ICOMOS) (32nd session of World Heritage Committee – Quebec, 2008 – Evaluation of cultural properties prepared by ICOMOS)
- WHC-09/73.COM/INF.8B.1- 33^{ème} session du Comité du Patrimoine Mondial (Séville, 2009) Evaluation des biens culturels préparées par le Conseil International des Monuments et Sites (ICOMOS) (33rd session of World Heritage Committee – Seville, 2009 – Evaluation of cultural properties prepared by ICOMOS)
- WHC-06/30.COM/19- Décisions adoptées lors de la 30^{ème} session du Comité du Patrimoine mondial (Vilnius, 2006) (Decisions adopted by 30th session of World Heritage Committee – Vilnius, 2006)
- WHC-07/31.COM/24- Décisions adoptées lors de la 31^{ème} session du Comité du Patrimoine mondial (Christchurch, 2007) (Decisions adopted by 31st session of World Heritage Committee – Christchurch, 2007)
- WHC-08/32.COM/24- Décisions adoptées lors de la 32^{ème} session du Comité du Patrimoine mondial (Québec, 2008) (Decisions adopted by 32nd session of World Heritage Committee – Quebec, 2008)

4 IUCN DOCUMENTS:

- EVALUATION OF IUCN'S WORK IN WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATIONS, by Christina Cameron, Parks Canada, Former Chairperson, World Heritage Committee, August 2005
- A Draft IUCN Strategy for Cultural Landscapes, Adrian Phillips, April 2005
- Report on the proceedings of the IUCN-WCPA World Heritage Workshop, November 24th to 28th, 2005 at the International Academy for Nature Conservation-Isle of Vilm, Germany.

5 JOINT ICOMOS/IUCN DOCUMENTS:

- World Heritage Nominations Resource Manual for Practitioners, Draft 3, 2009

6 ICOMOS PUBLICATIONS:

- The World Heritage List: Filling the gaps – An action Plan for the Future, compiled by Jukka Jokilehto, with contributions from Henry Cleere, Susan Denyer and Michael Petzet, Munich 2005
- The World Heritage List: What is OUV? Defining the Outstanding Universal Value of Cultural World Heritage Properties, compiled by Jukka Jokilehto, with contributions from Christina Cameron, Michel Parent and Michael Petzet, Berlin 2008

**Review of ICOMOS' working methods and procedures
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Annex no. 4: list of interviewees

ICOMOS

- . Gustavo Araoz (USA), President of ICOMOS
- . Gwenaëlle Bourdin, World Heritage Unit of ICOMOS
- . Kristal Buckley (Australia), ICOMOS World Heritage Panel Member
- . Alfredo Conti (Argentina), ICOMOS World Heritage Panel Member
- . Michel Cotte, ICOMOS World Heritage Advisor
- . Susan Denyer, ICOMOS World Heritage Advisor
- . Regina Durighello, ICOMOS World Heritage Programme Director
- . Andrew Hall (South Africa), ICOMOS World Heritage Panel Member
- . Bénédicte Selfslagh (Belgium), Secretary General of ICOMOS
- . Giora Solar (Israel), ICOMOS World Heritage Panel Invited Expert
- . Guo Zhan (China), ICOMOS World Heritage Panel Member

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE PRESIDENTS

- . Christina Cameron (Canada), Former UNESCO World Heritage Committee President
- . Tamas Fejerdy (Hungary), Former World Heritage Committee President
- . Véra Lacoecilhe (Santa Lucia), Former World Heritage Committee President
- . Ina Marciulionytė (Lithuania), Former World Heritage Committee President

MEMBERS OF WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE OF UNESCO AND STATE PARTIES

- . Isabelle Longuet (France)
- . Antonio Ricarte (Brazil), World Heritage Committee Member
- . Britta Rudolff (Bahrain), World Heritage Committee Member
- . Michael Turner (Israel), World Heritage Committee Member

WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

- . Francesco Bandarin, Director of World Heritage Centre
- . Véronique Dauge, World Heritage Centre
- . Mechtild Rössler, World Heritage Centre

ADVISORY BODIES

- . Tim Badman, UICN
- . Mounir Bouchenaki, Director General of ICCROM, former Deputy Director General for Culture at UNESCO
- . Joseph King, ICCROM

Response to the Recommendations by ICOMOS

As indicated in the foreword from the President, ICOMOS has received this report with great interest and gratitude. The analysis conducted is a rich resource, in addition to the specific recommendations made by the reviewer.

All the recommendations made by Mr Tabet are of interest and are welcomed by ICOMOS. In offering brief responses to the recommendations (below), ICOMOS notes that many of the recommended actions are already underway, and others are agreed but are dependent on the availability of financial and human resources. Others require further analysis and consideration by ICOMOS, often in cooperation with the other Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Centre, the World Heritage Committee and States Parties.

The ICOMOS Executive Committee and World Heritage Working Group have taken some time to carefully read and reflect on the recommendations, and offer the following responses as part of the ongoing work of ICOMOS to produce its work for the World Heritage Committee which is rigorous, scientific and independent.

ICOMOS welcomes the continuing discussions that this report will stimulate, and commends it to everyone with an interest in the future of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

1 Develop/disseminate thematic studies. (high priority)

ICOMOS should develop as a matter of priority and widely disseminate thematic studies relating to categories of properties and regions whose representation on the World Heritage List is limited.

ICOMOS **agrees** that thematic studies are a very important way to provide upstream support to States Parties. Thematic studies are part of the activities of the ICOMOS World Heritage program each year. The number of studies completed each year will be dependent on financial and staff resources.

2 Translate thematic studies into 6 official UNESCO languages. (normal priority)

ICOMOS should translate into the six official UNESCO languages and widely disseminate thematic studies already completed.

As indicated in the responses to Recommendations #1 and #3, ICOMOS **agrees in principle** to the proposal for wider dissemination of its thematic studies, although translation into additional languages is dependent on the availability of financial resources. Existing thematic studies are written in English or French.

3 Translate key documents prepared for the World Heritage Committee into the 6 official UNESCO languages. (top priority)

ICOMOS should translate into the six official UNESCO languages and widely disseminate the documents already prepared or in preparation concerning the application by the World Heritage Committee of the various criteria used to justify Outstanding Universal Value (cf. Decision 32COM9 by the World Heritage Committee). These documents should be supplemented by the publication and dissemination of the resources manual relating to the preparation of nomination dossiers currently being prepared by the advisory bodies (cf. Decision 32COM9 by the World Heritage Committee) in order to constitute a working document enabling State Parties to better prepare their nomination dossiers.

The ICOMOS response to this recommendation has two parts.

- a. ICOMOS **agrees in principle** to the proposal for wider dissemination of its thematic studies and other relevant documents, although translation into additional languages is dependent on the availability of financial resources. Currently, working documents prepared for the World Heritage Committee are transmitted in English and French.
- b. Regarding the dissemination of World Heritage Resources Manuals, ICOMOS **agrees** that this work is of the highest importance in assisting States Parties. These are prepared cooperatively with the World Heritage Centre and the other two Advisory Bodies (IUCN and ICCROM), according to decisions and funding allocations made by the World Heritage Committee. The production of the Resource Manuals is undertaken by the World Heritage Centre. The Resource Manual on the Preparation of Nominations was completed early in 2010, and should be available in English and French in time for the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee. ICOMOS supports the active efforts by the World Heritage Centre to source extra-budgetary funds to expand the number of translations.

4 More thematic studies on cultural landscapes. (high priority)

To allow for the increasingly important part played by Cultural Landscapes amongst the nominated properties, ICOMOS should develop even more thorough specific thematic research and studies concerning the various subcategories of Cultural Landscapes in the various regions.

ICOMOS welcomes this suggestion and **agrees in principle**. Implementation of this recommendation is dependent on the availability of financial resources. In 2010, a new thematic study for the Pacific Islands will contribute to this direction. The ICOMOS World Heritage Working Group will look at future opportunities in its program of thematic studies in light of this recommendation. (see also response to Recommendation #1)

5 Improve coordination with IUCN on evaluation of cultural landscapes. (top priority)

Because of its position as “leader” in the evaluation of cultural landscapes, ICOMOS should take the initiative of establishing very close coordination with IUCN so as to frame a common strategy leading to a synthetic approach in the evaluation of properties nominated in this category of properties, and thus overcome the rigidity of the current approach, which all too often reflects a separation between cultural values and natural values (cf. decisions 31COM9 and 32COM9 of the World Heritage Committee).

ICOMOS **agrees** that improved coordination with IUCN in this area of our shared work for the World Heritage Committee is highly desirable. This is a topic of active discussion and continuing work between the two Advisory Bodies, and several practical initiatives have been put in place. In 2009, IUCN accepted the invitation to attend the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel to enable a better dialogue on the evaluation of nominated cultural landscapes and mixed properties.

6 Work with IUCN to better coordinate evaluations of mixed properties. (high priority)

ICOMOS and IUCN should frame a strategy enabling better coordination of their evaluations of nominated mixed properties, so as to achieve a concerted and coherent approach by the two advisory bodies.

See the response for Recommendation #5. ICOMOS **agrees** that improved coordination with IUCN in this area of our shared work for the World Heritage Committee is highly desirable. For the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee, the two Advisory Bodies have worked to improve the coordination of the draft decisions for nominations of mixed properties.

7 Work with IUCN to clarify the evaluation of serial properties. (top priority)

ICOMOS should undertake, in collaboration with IUCN, a thorough study of the concept of serial nominations of properties, particularly developing the conditions and criteria used to evaluate the Outstanding Universal Value of the whole series, independently of its component parts, and appropriate management modes for this category of properties.

ICOMOS **agrees** that this is an important area of current and future work, conducted cooperatively with the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre, and the other Advisory Bodies. ICOMOS notes that these questions have been considered in relation to natural properties through the work undertaken by two expert meetings held in Vilm, Germany in 2008-2009, supported by IUCN, the World Heritage Centre and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. Importantly, the State Party of Switzerland hosted an important expert meeting in February 2010 on Serial Nominations and Properties (Ittingen, Switzerland). The report on this expert meeting will be presented to the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee, and ICOMOS anticipates that further work will occur in order to fully understand the complexities presented by cultural serial properties. ICOMOS therefore considers this work to have a very high priority within its World Heritage program.

8 Propose modifications to the Operational Guidelines in relation to serial properties. (top priority)

ICOMOS should enter on its agenda, as a matter of priority and in collaboration with IUCN, the drawing up of draft modifications to paragraphs 137, 138 and 139 of the Guidelines, as requested by the World Heritage Committee (decision 32COM10B).

See the response to Recommendation #7 (above). ICOMOS agrees that this matter is an important priority within its World Heritage program. ICOMOS anticipates that the continuing work concerning serial properties may result in the need for some amendments to the Operational Guidelines, and notes that the meeting Ittingen, Switzerland (February 2010) has made some suggestions that will be considered by the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee. ICOMOS considers that further analysis and discussion is needed to develop the specific proposed amendments and related guidance materials.

9 Propose a revised evaluation timeframe for the examination of nominated serial properties. (high priority)

ICOMOS should propose to the World Heritage Committee that the lead times granted to the advisory bodies for the examination of serial nominations should be extended, allowing them an additional year so that they can carry out their evaluation satisfactorily.

ICOMOS considers that this recommendation **requires further analysis and discussion**. As noted in relation to Recommendations #7 and #8, ICOMOS anticipates that some operational changes will emerge from the current process initiated by the World Heritage Committee to give greater guidance concerning serial and transnational properties.

10 Enhance the involvement of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees. (high priority)

ICOMOS should strive to more greatly develop the participation of its International Scientific Committees in the process of evaluating properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, while taking care to ensure a balance between the desirable degree of extension of the field of consultations and the confidentiality of evaluations, and to avoid situations likely to generate conflicts of interest. The research and publications produced by the International Scientific Committees should moreover be widely disseminated, and should regularly be added to the resources of the ICOMOS documentation centre.

The ICOMOS response to this recommendation has three parts.

- a. ICOMOS **agrees** with the need to enhance the participation of its International Scientific Committees (ISCs) in the evaluation of nominations to the World Heritage List. The Eger-Xi'an Principles were adopted by the 15th ICOMOS General Assembly in 2005, and the ICOMOS Scientific Council was established in 2006 to provide stronger coordination and effectiveness of its ISCs. The work of the ICOMOS Scientific Council has included a continuing consideration of the ISC involvement in the ICOMOS World Heritage program, and the initiation of relevant cooperative/inter-disciplinary research (such as the work undertaken on global climate change). Currently ISCs assist the evaluation process through the identification of relevant experts, preparation of desk reviews of the justification for Outstanding Universal Value (including the Comparative Analysis), and through their meetings, research and publications. Continuing to develop training and support for ICOMOS members will assist in better achieving this recommendation.
- b. ICOMOS **agrees** that avoiding conflicts of interest is critical to the credibility of its work for the World Heritage Committee. This requires ongoing vigilance. ICOMOS actively works to avoid perceptions of conflict of interest in its World Heritage evaluation procedures, as outlined in the *Policy for the Implementation of the ICOMOS World Heritage Mandate* (2006, revised 2007), and the *Ethical Commitment Statement for ICOMOS Members* (2002). Occasional issues arising through the involvement of ICOMOS ISCs are followed up by the ICOMOS Bureau in cooperation with the ICOMOS Scientific Council.
- c. ICOMOS **agrees** that the publications by ISCs can be of valuable assistance to States Parties. All ISC publications are included in the UNESCO-ICOMOS Documentation Centre, and are available on-line. The issue of improving the dissemination of the work of ISCs will be referred to the ICOMOS Scientific Council for further discussion.

11 Enhance participation of National Committees in evaluation of nominations and selection of experts. (high priority)

ICOMOS should study and implement measures designed to involve its National Committees more closely in the process of evaluating nominated properties and in the identification of experts. Special attention should be paid to the implementation of measures to improve the level of expertise of National Committee members with regard to the fundamental texts of the World Heritage Convention and the procedures and functioning of the World Heritage Committee.

ICOMOS **agrees** with the need to enhance the participation of its National Committees in the evaluation of nominations to the World Heritage List, and is already taking a number of relevant initiatives, particularly through the efforts of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee, which established a Task Team oriented around these issues in 2006. The ICOMOS Dubrovnik-Valletta Principles, adopted in 2009, encourage the active involvement of ICOMOS National Committees in all World Heritage processes concerning properties in their country. In relation to the evaluation of nominations, ICOMOS National Committees are encouraged by the ICOMOS International Secretariat to meet with mission experts, and are invited to provide confidential advice to the World Heritage Unit as an input to the evaluation file. Furthermore, National Committees have been invited to submit lists of their members with expertise in the operation of the World Heritage Convention, and are often consulted to suggest experts that could take missions to other countries in the same geo-cultural region. Additional regional training initiatives and development of support materials for ICOMOS members will assist in better achieving this recommendation.

12 Consider constitution of an external network of research organisations to enrich scientific expertise. (high priority)

ICOMOS should consider the constitution of an external network of research centres, universities and specialist organisations in order to enrich scientific expertise covering all

fields of cultural heritage and to widen the field of consultations for the evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List to include specialists who are not members of the organisation.

This recommendation **requires further consideration** by ICOMOS. Currently, ICOMOS has agreements for cooperation in evaluations with TICCIH (Industrial Heritage) and Docomomo (Modern Movement buildings and areas), and works with a very wide range of organisations, particularly when commissioning desk reviews of particular types of properties. This is initiated by the World Heritage Unit of the ICOMOS International Secretariat on a case-by-case basis, depending on the specificities of the nominated properties each year. Beyond this current practice, the priorities for a more formalised network have not yet been identified.

13 Regional and gender balance in selection of experts. (normal priority)

With regard to the choice of its experts, ICOMOS should maintain a balance between regions and improve the gender balance.

ICOMOS **agrees** that these are important considerations when selecting experts to conduct evaluation missions. In most cases, experts are currently selected from the same geo-cultural region as the nominated property. In this sense, ICOMOS seeks a compatibility between its mission experts and the specificities of the nominated properties, rather than aiming for a more simplistic 'numerical' balance. The question of gender 'balance' can be given more consideration in the future, as one of several factors influencing the selection. To assist this, the World Heritage Unit of the ICOMOS International Secretariat will be requested to keep statistics on the gender of experts selected each year so that this can be more specifically monitored.

14 Training and support for mission experts. (high priority)

ICOMOS should set up a programme for the training of the experts involved in technical missions and revise the format of the document issued to them before the execution of their mission, in order to better define the key questions it seems necessary to explore thoroughly for each property in particular. This document could include a summary (even if only provisional) of the most important points which emerged during the desk review.

The ICOMOS response to this recommendation has two parts.

- a. ICOMOS **agrees** with the need to enhance the training of experts for World Heritage technical missions (both for nominations and State of Conservation reporting processes). This is a priority identified by the current process to further develop the Global Capacity Building Strategy for World Heritage, facilitated by the State Party of Switzerland. How best to do this is an issue of active discussion within ICOMOS, and including the development of training materials, and the possibility of more specific and intensive cooperation with ICCROM, UNESCO's Category 2 Centres and other training institutions.
- b. ICOMOS **agrees** with the proposals made about including matters arising from the desk reviews in the briefings provided to mission experts. This is currently done by the ICOMOS World Heritage Advisers working on each file, although the evaluation calendar means that these processes necessarily often occur in parallel. The ICOMOS World Heritage Working Group will continue to look at the procedures in order to maximise the potential for this recommendation to be met.

15 ICOMOS experts to provide feedback sessions at the end of each mission. (normal priority)

In the interest of greater transparency, ICOMOS should ask the experts to organise, at the end of their mission, a feedback session with the local and/or national authorities concerned,

to take stock of the key questions which emerged during their mission, and to raise some topics which deserve closer attention, while avoiding taking up positions which could be seen as foreshadowing the evaluation results, and specifying clearly that this does not in any way constitute an official and definitive ICOMOS position.

This recommendation **requires further consideration** by ICOMOS. The final evaluation provided by ICOMOS is peer reviewed in a number of important ways and is never the view of a single expert. For this reason, ICOMOS does not currently allow its mission experts to provide direct feedback to site managers or national authorities during the mission. In order to continue to improve the ways in which the evaluation process can be of assistance to States Parties in conserving important cultural heritage properties, this proposal will be referred to the World Heritage Working Group for further consideration.

16 Continue to expand the pool of experts through training of ICOMOS members. (normal priority)

ICOMOS should step up its efforts to constitute a large pool of experts with thorough training in the fundamental texts, and the procedures and operation of the World Heritage Committee. This pool would ensure a significant increase in the number of advisors involved in the property evaluation process, who would be selected amongst various cultural areas on the basis of their specific expertise in relation to the various heritage categories. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring the necessary renewal of the team of advisors, and the continuity of the ICOMOS approach in a medium and long term perspective.

ICOMOS **agrees** with this recommendation. See the response to Recommendation #14.

17 Establish ability for the World Heritage Advisers to work as a team. (normal priority)

To ensure greater coherence in the evaluation process, ICOMOS should consider setting up a mechanism enabling advisors to work as a team, and exchange their views, particularly with regard to the most complex dossiers.

ICOMOS **agrees** that enhancing the ability of the group of World Heritage Advisers to work more closely together will continue to improve the quality of the work. In 2009, ICOMOS implemented a new procedure for recruiting World Heritage Advisers, and provided an induction session in Paris to enable the new Advisers to meet with the longer-experienced ones, and to plan their work together. Informal working arrangements currently allow collaboration on complex dossiers, and the staff and ICOMOS World Heritage Working Group are considering further the additional possibilities.

18 Improve regional representation on the Panel. (normal priority)

ICOMOS should strive to improve regional representation and men/women parity in the composition of the World Heritage Panel, while maintaining the principle of the selection of panel members on the basis of their expertise.

ICOMOS **agrees** with the need to improve the representation of certain geo-cultural areas in the membership of its World Heritage Panel. The ICOMOS Executive Committee actively considers this aspect each year when determining the composition of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel. Ongoing initiatives to strengthen ICOMOS membership throughout the world, and to further develop training in World Heritage capabilities are important elements in implementing this recommendation.

19 Change composition of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel to include a continuing ‘core’ of ICOMOS officers, plus a changing/flexible component of experts chosen on the basis of their expertise and geo-cultural representation. (top priority)

ICOMOS should examine the possibility of revising the composition of the World Heritage Panel so that it should bring together on the one hand a “hard core” formed by certain members of the Executive Committee familiar with World Heritage texts and procedures and on the other hand a larger number of international experts chosen for their competency in the various regions and invited on an annual basis depending on the categories of the properties to be examined.

Currently, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel is constituted each year by a decision of the ICOMOS Executive Committee. To date, the ICOMOS Executive Committee has decided to maintain the practice of forming the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel from the available members of the Executive Committee, augmented by additional members invited to address gaps in geo-cultural or disciplinary representation. The method of composition of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel is an active issue for the ICOMOS Executive Committee, and the ICOMOS World Heritage Working Group will be asked to give further consideration to this proposal.

20 Limit participation in the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel of members from countries with nominations under consideration, and from countries represented on the World Heritage Committee. (top priority)

ICOMOS should strive to limit wherever possible the number of members of the World Heritage Panel belonging to the same country as one of the properties to be examined in the year in which the Panel meets, and to avoid the presence in the Panel of members belonging to a country which is itself a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

ICOMOS takes particular care to avoid perceptions of conflict of interest in the composition and operation of its World Heritage Panel, as outlined in *Policy for the Implementation of the ICOMOS World Heritage Mandate* (2006, revised 2007). The ICOMOS response to the specific suggestions in this recommendation has two parts.

- a. ICOMOS **agrees** with the proposal that it should limit the number of Panel members from countries with nominations under consideration that year (cultural and mixed properties), and notes that this is one of a number of considerations which influence the selection of Panel members.
- b. In relation to the proposal to avoid including in the World Heritage Panel members whose countries are represented on the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS **agrees in part**. Currently, members who directly participate in national delegations elected to the World Heritage Committee are excused from any participation in World Heritage evaluations or State of Conservation reporting by ICOMOS. This practice aims to give due respect to the different and specific roles of the World Heritage Committee and the Advisory Bodies by the World Heritage Convention, as well as to avoid any perceptions of conflict of interest in the work of ICOMOS. ICOMOS does not automatically exclude all members whose national governments are members of the World Heritage Committee, preferring to evaluate the possibilities for conflicts of interest on a case-by-case basis, guided by the *Policy for the Implementation of the ICOMOS World Heritage Mandate*.

21 Within the Panel, ask two rapporteurs to prepare a written review of each draft evaluation (prepared by the World Heritage Advisers) and circulate these prior to the Panel meeting. (normal priority)

ICOMOS should develop practices currently in force by adopting the principle of designating, from amongst the members of the World Heritage Panel, two rapporteurs for each of the

properties examined, who are responsible for preparing a written evaluation of the draft presented by the advisors, to be attached to the draft and issued to the other Panel members.

This recommendation **requires further consideration** by ICOMOS. Currently, all members of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel review the nomination files before the commencement of the Panel session, and each file is reviewed *in detail* by at least two members of the Panel. The proposal for a written input to be prepared and circulated before the Panel meeting would require modifications to the Panel working methods, and this may not be entirely practicable due to the pressures of the evaluation calendar at this point of the process. As noted in response to Recommendations #18-20, the method of composition of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel is an active issue for the ICOMOS Executive Committee, and the ICOMOS World Heritage Working Group will be asked to give further consideration to this proposal.

22 Strengthen the World Heritage Working Group by incorporating new members on the basis of competency in different fields and/or geo-cultural representation. (normal priority)

The World Heritage Working Group is an effective instrument for the coordination of actions carried out under ICOMOS' World Heritage mandate. The ICOMOS Executive Committee should consider strengthening it by incorporating a limited number of additional members chosen for their competency in this field, while ensuring as a matter of priority respect for geocultural diversity.

ICOMOS **agrees** that the World Heritage Working Group is important in the further improvement to its procedures and capacities. In October 2009, the Executive Committee resolved to expand its membership, and the World Heritage Working Group is currently comprised of 12 members of the ICOMOS Executive Committee (and the President as an *ex officio* member), together with the staff of the World Heritage Unit, and the ICOMOS World Heritage Advisers. To broaden the capacity and geo-cultural balance, specific tasks have been allocated to additional members of ICOMOS as needed. The membership and operation of the World Heritage Working Group is subject to regular monitoring and discussion.

23 Ensure adequate budgetary resources for the World Heritage Unit. (normal priority)

ICOMOS should strive as a matter of priority to reinforce the World Heritage Unit to enable it to cope with the growing workload linked to the evaluation of properties nominated for inscription, and the state of conservation of properties already inscribed. An adequate budgetary line should be made available, after discussion with the World Heritage Committee, in order to provide the permanent resources for this reinforcement.

The budget and workload for the World Heritage Unit is dependent on the decisions of the World Heritage Committee. In that context, ICOMOS **agrees** that reinforcement of the capacities of its World Heritage Unit is central to its capacity as an Advisory Body. This is the subject of active dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the World Heritage Committee. As the size of the World Heritage List grows, along with the complexity of conservation pressures, resourcing is a challenge for all parts of the World Heritage system.

24 Continue processes to ensure the consistency of evaluation texts presented to the World Heritage Committee; and wherever relevant, refer to the previous recommendations of ICOMOS. (normal priority)

ICOMOS should continue the reforms already under way, so as to ensure systematic coherence between its evaluations of properties nominated for inscription and its recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. Wherever possible, the evaluations should refer to the previous recommendations of ICOMOS in similar situations.

ICOMOS welcomes the finding that its processes of improvements have had visible and positive outcomes and **agrees** that they should continue. This is part of the ongoing work of the World Heritage Working Group. The practice of referring to previous Committee decisions has been included in the format for preparing the ICOMOS evaluations that is used by the World Heritage Advisers.

25 Continue procedure of sending requests for further information to States Parties during the evaluation cycle. (normal priority)

ICOMOS should continue and confirm the procedure of systematically sending out additional information requests to the State Parties, a practice which has been developed over recent years, whenever such requests can clarify the evaluations of the properties nominated for inscription and the recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. To make the evaluation process as transparent as possible, ICOMOS should consider extending this practice to all the properties examined, even if the evaluation has not demonstrated the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties. Particular attention should be paid to the formulation of information requests, so that ICOMOS' role should be perceived by the State Parties as being one of aid and support.

The ICOMOS response to the specific suggestions in this recommendation has two parts.

- a. ICOMOS **agrees** that the mechanism of requesting further information from States Parties allows for a beneficial interaction during the evaluation cycle, contributing to the quality of the work and the accuracy of the files.
 - b. ICOMOS will **give further consideration** to the proposal to expand this practice to all properties examined. Currently, when deciding whether to send requests for further information, ICOMOS takes into account a number of factors, but does not generally do so in situations where answering the question will require a substantially revised nomination dossier to be prepared, since this is not a benefit to the State Party.
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26 ICOMOS should adhere to the Operational Guidelines requirement to consider only information received before 1 March; and should continue to adhere to the rule that the decisions of the Panel cannot be overturned. (normal priority)

In accordance with the Operational Guidelines and the decisions of the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS should apply as strictly as possible the principle of not examining additional information received from State Parties after 1st March and scrupulously respecting the procedural rules which specify that the recommendations adopted by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel (or by the Working Group for the evaluation of the additional information) are definitive, and can only be changed or amended by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel itself.

The ICOMOS response to the specific suggestions in this recommendation has two parts.

- a. ICOMOS **agrees** with the need to strictly observe the requirements of the Operational Guidelines, and works to an exacting evaluation timeframe. Therefore ICOMOS does not consider information received from States Parties after 1 March (including information brought to the session of the World Heritage Committee). In 2007, ICOMOS moved the timing of its World Heritage Panel forward in the calendar, to provide more time for the exchange of correspondence with States Parties up to the end of February.
 - b. The current working arrangements of ICOMOS have been established by the Executive Committee and only permit the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel to overturn its recommendations. In many cases, the Panel will delegate some of its final decisions to the World Heritage Working Group, within specific defined parameters (such as the consideration of additional information received from States Parties). Members of the ICOMOS delegation attending sessions of the World Heritage Committee are not empowered to re-visit the recommendations of ICOMOS.
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27 Continue to improve the written and oral presentations to the World Heritage Committee; and include a recapitulation of earlier decisions of the World Heritage Committee. (normal priority)

ICOMOS should continue the reforms already under way, in order to make the written and oral presentations of the World Heritage Committee clearer and more systematic. The presentations could also include a recapitulation of earlier decisions by the World Heritage Committee in similar situations.

ICOMOS welcomes the finding that the quality and clarity of its written and oral presentations to the World Heritage Committee have improved. ICOMOS **agrees** with the need to continue these processes of improvement.

28 Work with the other Advisory Bodies to develop a proposal to combine the two 'intermediate' categories of decisions (defer and refer back). (high priority)

In coordination with IUCN, ICOMOS should propose to the World Heritage Committee a revision of the Operational Guidelines with a view to combining the two "intermediate" categories of decisions (Deferral and Referral) into a single decision category ("Extend the examination"), with specific recommendations made on a case-by-case basis precisely defining the additional information and the revisions requested from the State Party, and setting out the necessary deadlines for the examination of the revised proposals by the advisory bodies.

ICOMOS acknowledges that the application and use of these mechanisms by the World Heritage Committee varies, and is an active issue of discussion with the World Heritage Committee, World Heritage Centre, and IUCN. As a consequence, this recommendation **requires further consideration**. The Advisory Bodies have prepared an information document on this issue for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (WHC.10/34.COM/INF.8B4), and will continue to work together in light of the discussion and any decisions arising.

29 Participation of IUCN experts at ICOMOS World Heritage Panel (and vice versa); and harmonisation of the calendars of the IUCN and ICOMOS calendars. (top priority)

To ensure greater coherence in the evaluation of cultural landscapes and mixed properties, it would be desirable to consider the participation of IUCN experts at ICOMOS World Heritage Panel meetings called to examine these categories of properties and, at the same time, the participation of ICOMOS experts at IUCN Panel meetings on the same categories of properties. To this end, ICOMOS and IUCN should harmonise the calendars of their respective Panels, and transmit in advance their recommendations so that they can be sent to the Panel members of the other organisation before the date of the meeting.

ICOMOS **agrees** that there are benefits from closer coordination of the work of its World Heritage Panel with IUCN. This is a matter of active discussion between the two Advisory Bodies. In 2009, the timing of the World Heritage Panels was planned by IUCN and ICOMOS to facilitate improved coordination and exchange of views. ICOMOS was represented at the 2009 IUCN World Heritage Panel by teleconference; and IUCN was represented in person during part of the 2009 ICOMOS World Heritage Panel. Similar arrangements are envisaged for the 2010 Panels.

30 Work with ICCROM to identify opportunities to cooperate in the training of experts and ICOMOS members. (normal priority)

ICOMOS should study with ICCROM ways in which the two organisations can cooperate in the training of experts and members of ICOMOS national committees.

See responses to recommendations #10, #11, #14, and #16. ICOMOS **agrees** that there are many benefits arising from closer cooperation with ICCROM. ICCROM is invited to be represented at the meetings of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee, Executive Committee and General Assembly, and a representative of the President of ICOMOS attends meetings of the ICCROM Council and General Assembly. While there are many other occasions where ICOMOS and ICCROM meet together and discuss such initiatives, a specific meeting of ICCROM and the World Heritage Working Group occurred to advance this possibility in December 2009; and the priorities form part of the current work by the Advisory Bodies for a renewed *Global Capacity Building Strategy*.

31 ICOMOS involvement in processes for completeness check and response to claims of factual errors in final evaluations. (normal priority)

To respect the separation of competencies between the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies, ICOMOS should avoid intervention in the verification of the administrative conformity of the nominations. On the other hand, ICOMOS should take full responsibility for the analysis of the letters sent by the State Parties, in accordance with Article 150 of the Operational Guidelines describing the factual errors they have noticed in the evaluation of their nominations in the case of properties with cultural value.

ICOMOS **agrees** with the need to strictly observe the requirements of the Operational Guidelines. The ICOMOS response to these specific proposals has two parts.

- a. ICOMOS **notes** that the responsibility to check for the completeness of submitted nominations is clearly allocated to the World Heritage Centre in the Operational Guidelines. ICOMOS and IUCN can attend this process at the invitation of the World Heritage Centre to discuss any issues identified by the Secretariat.
 - b. ICOMOS **notes** that the procedure for checking claims of factual errors in the evaluation texts was recently improved by the World Heritage Committee. ICOMOS fully reviews all such claims received by the Secretariat, and reports its findings to the Chair.
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ICOMOS
Paris, June 2010